

Oi! WARNING #6

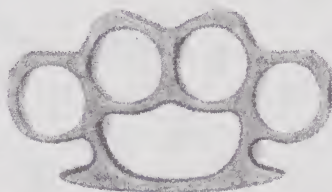


Oi! WARNING ISSUE 6 EDITORIAL

Oi! - PUNK - HARDCORE & SKA FANZINE

P.O. BOX 333 , CLENCHWARTON , KINGS LYNN , NORFOLK , PE34 4WU , ENGLAND , UK.

Well , firstly I wanna apologise for this issue being so late in coming out , but due to several problems it couldn't be helped folks - but like they say better late than never and hopefully you'll think it's been worth the wait. This is the biggest issue yet and I think it's the best yet altho i look forward to getting yer feedback on it and letting me know what you think of it. Anyways I'll get off but I just wanna thank everyone whose helped , supported me , bought the zine and to all the bands and labels that have supported me .. cheers !! Have a great new year and all the best for 2008 .. see you all in issue 7 I hope ... Sean.



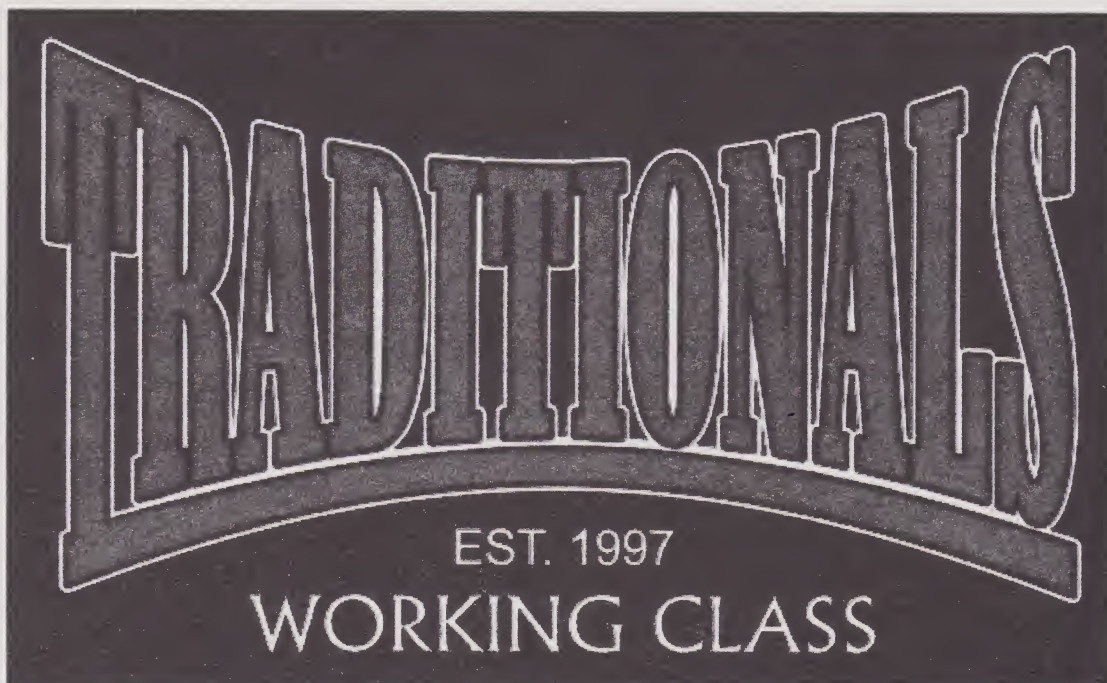
STRENGTH THRU UNITY

CHEERS & SHOUT OUT'S GO TO — Chelsea Steve ; Ren ; Nigel ; Wendy & Dan ; Little Ed ; Bob ; Trevor & to all who drink in 'The Victory' , Watford Jon , Captain Oi! Records , Tony - Step 1 , Dirty South Drew - SOS/GOG , Sick Of Society Crew , Tez - DN Allstars , Trev - Negative Reaction , Chip Headwound , RASH Patrick , DIY Steve - Streetvoice , Randy Insurgence & Insurgence Records , Si & Hotwired , Eddie Patriot , Dave & The Traditionals , Marcus & The Legion , Mike - Blue Collar Criminals , Guy & The Ratfinks , Ayres - Charm City Saints , Jay & Suzuki Smith , Mick - Dirty Mick Records , Felix - Siempre Contra Records , Steen - The Zero Point , Britta - Impact Records , Alex BZ , Casper & Cindy - Ghetto Rock , Mark - Koi Records , Ray - Publik Waste , Mike - 8 Piece Records , MOB , Fie - Caught In A Trap , Mister Fab - Quartier Libre , Stoney - Keyside Strike , Saxby & Russ - The Warriors , Laura & Alec - Last Gang In Town , Jesse Jaymz , Rich - Soggy Dream Music , The Frakas , Vinnie Value & Mike D. - SSSP , John & Lousy Break , Armen - Headache Records / Wretched Ones , Dennis FU - Fed Up , Denis - United Riot Records , Christian - Anfibio Records , Flavio - COTD , Spirit Of 36 Records / Pour Ma Classe , Ian Gasper , Paul Initonit , Anarchoi Zine , Mike - Longshot Music , Sam CL1 , Halb 7 Records , Marco - No Front Teeth , Fear City , Niall Wall Records , Kurt - The Barons , Oli - People Like You Records , Mosh - Knockout Records , Gabs - Epidemic Records , Affy - Stikki Records , David - Coretex Records , First Time Riot , On The Rag Records , Kevin - Do The Dog Records , Matt - Zero Youth Records , Overground Records , Christophe - Dirty Punk Records , Vlad & Peddy - Disdainful , Aysh - Acid Tongue , Pressure 28 , Willi - Scumfuck , Ben - Une Vie Pour Rien ? , Tim - Anti Hippie Zine , Cezar - No Bollox Just Oi! , Audrey - IBIM , Oi! The Print , Mitsos & Urban Scum , Kob Records , Mike - Madbutcher Records , Ivano - Cervelli Stanki , Mike Puke , Mick! , Gary - Urban Calling , Scampkid Promotions , Kev Payne , Devoid , Hepcat Records , Rowdy Farrago Records , Raw Poo , Marco - Klasse Kriminale , Ricky - Reazione , The AC's , Cultjam Media , Boot To Head Records , Mike Mugger , Mike - Beer City Records , Meg - Cherry Red Records , Nico - BDS Records , Worst Zine , Narayan Records , Cynthia (For everything !) , The Broadsiders , Mehdi - Hardcoretrooper Records , Mic - Size 10 Entertainment , Street Anthem Records , Out4w , Union Made , The Fallout , Street Dogs , Eastfield , Steve - Loyalty , Nic - PUS , Trace - Trip To Oil-Town , Elaine & Dave (For putting up with me !) , The Broadsiders , The Explicits , Ramble , Evil Conduct , Bare Knuckle Saints , Truth In Needles , Automatica Aggressione , Smash Points , Ciuma Skins , Kriminal Pogo , Degeneration , Senza Tregua , Harrington Saints , Marek Kowalsky , Millwall FC and to all who have bought / subscribed to the zine , Supported and helped in any way .. CHEERS 'N' BEERS !!!!

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Well The Traditionals are a band that need no introduction to anyone who knows anything about the American Skinhead scene .. having been around for the past 10 years or so and knocking out quality Oi!/Streetpunk music from day one so when Dave contacted me about doing an interview I jumped at the chance at finding out a bit more about 'em and their forthcoming full length ..

So Dave , when and why did The Traditionals form ? Can you give us a brief history of the band ? Where'd the name come from and who come up with it ?

The Traditionals were formed in the last Summer of 1997. The band came together around the same time as my former band The Sussed split up. The original line up was Dave Harris , Joe Harris , Donovan Greenaway and Matt Mossoco. We played for 2 years with this line up and recorded an unreleased 6 song demo. Matt moved and was replaced with Rick Janus and the full length LP "No Choice" was released in 1999. We were briefly on 'GMM Records' and had been strung along in the promise of a new album on the label. The label folded and re-organised around this time and the project never happened. In 2000 and 2001 we played the 'Beer Olympics' in Atlanta . Ga with bands like The Templars , Oxymoron , Patriot and other great bands. In 2001 Donovan left on vocals and Rob Faulkner came aboard as singer. We got a spot on 'Holidays In The Sun' in 2002 in New Jersey and really enjoyed meeting a lot of the UK bands we grew up listening to. In 2003 we recorded the "Steel Town" EP with the new line up. 'Impact Records' got a hold of the 6 songs and signed us to a 2 album deal in 2003. We released "Dead Society" LP in 2004 that included songs from the "Steel Town" EP. "Dead Society" was well received and the band played for 2 years with the line up on that record. In 2005 AJ replaced Rick on Rhythm Guitar and in 2006 Matt replaced Craig on Bass after 9 years. The band recorded our upcoming LP "Generation Of Today" in February 2007 and will be released on 'Impact Records' from Germany this Fall. We are all happy with where the band is these days. Our lives become more complicated as we get older. Paying bills and feeding our families takes precedence over our wants to tour more and move the band forward. We don't plan on going away any time soon though , we keep writing songs and when we can we will get out on the road. We are working out details for a tour in Spring 2008 in Europe.

I know Dave was in The Sussed before joining the band have any of the other band members played in bands prior to joining The Traditionals ? Are any of you involved in other bands/projects at the moment ?

AJ plays in a Hardcore band called Deliberate Intent and he has played in several other projects growing up. Joe played drums during a brief reunion of The Sussed. Rob has also had some bands he was involved with as a kid and has a side project called Booze And Broads.

What bands would you say most influence the bands music and yourselves ?

I just really sit down and play riffs until I get something I like. I can't say I try to write something in the model of another band but since 1989 when I heard Infa Riot in a friend's car on the way back from an Agnostic Front show , I was hooked on British Oi! and Punk and would seek out the classic stuff like The Blood , Adicts , Accident , Cock Sparrer , Sham 69 , Betrayed , 4 Skins , Case , Sex Pistols , The Crack , Stiff Little Fingers , Combat 84 , Vibrators , UK Subs , Oppressed , Vicious Rumours , The Partisans , Toy Dolls , The Clash , Slaughter & The Dogs .. I also liked a lot of the early 80's California stuff. We would listen to a lot of stuff coming from the 90's like Oxymoron , Templars , all of the 'Headache Records' stuff that was coming out of Jersey back then like Wretched Ones , Niblick Henbane .. Patriot , Evil Conduct , Hardskin. I have always been a big fan of 'Studio One' , Coxtan Dodd and most old

Skinhead Reggae Ska , Rocksteady and Bluebeat stuff. Don't think you'll hear that in our sound but a fan nevertheless.

Who comes up with lyric's ? Do they find it hard to come up with new material and how do you decide which songs to keep / put in your set and which to leave out ?

I have written a good bit of lyric's , Rob has also written a lot of lyric's like the song's "Dead Society" and "Protection". Even when I write a song lyric , the band will usually help out with the final details. I also have historically written the majority of the music riffs but all song's are tweaked at practise and anything in the band is subject to a vote. If the majority of the band doesn't like a song we won't play it. Nowadays with the new line up AJ and Matt have written music and add a lot to the sound of the new LP. I never really have a problem writing music or lyric's , maybe I could do it for a living if we made more than \$50 bucks a gig hahaha. People don't wanna hear the truth these days. Working class guys playing songs about the way they live doesn't have a place on MTV or in the heavily controlled mainstream media. We will still write what we want and not worry about the fame shit ! We have written and recorded over 50 songs and cannot fit them all in (nor would we want to) , we play the sing-a-long old songs that get the crowd going and we also play new stuff to keep them interested. We also play a cover or 2 at our gigs from old Oi! bands that we like to pay tribute to.



Have you got a favourite Traditionals song or one that you're particularly proud of ? If so which one and why ?

My favourite song changes from time to time. "We Had A Deal" was it for a long time but I like the new LP "Generation Of Today" tracks a lot and "Not Gonna Change" is my current favourite. "Not Gonna Change" is about the world around you expecting you to conform with societies norm when you turn 30 or so , and our feeling of fuck that ! We still feel the same way we did when we were 16 shaving our heads , we just have more life experiences now to back up our disgust with our system. The song's about lacing up a pair of doc's , trying to look smart , having a beer with your friends without feeling guilty.

You played in Europe last year alongside Evil Conduct , 4Promille and Hardskin how'd that go ? And how did it come about ? How would you say playing in Europe compares to the States ?

Our tour in Europe last year was fuckin' awesome. We were able to party in Amsterdam for a couple of days before the tour and then it was all beer drinking and mayhem the rest of the way. We were on Mosh's 'Knockout' tour and we were treated very well and made a lot of great friends in the process. As far as how you are treated in the US compared to Europe ? You are treated like a piece of shit on the road in the States and are lucky to get a corner of a room to ball your flight jacket up for a pillow. No guarantees , poor turnouts , poor promotion , long , long drives etc .. In Germany they treated us like human beings , 3 meals a day , beds on the bus to sleep , all the beer we could drink , organised venues and sound systems that made us feel like Rock stars on stage comparatively. I would love to go back and we are in the process of a second tour this fall.

Have you got any plans to come back to Europe ? How about the UK ?

Yes , we do have plans to come back this year at some point. I was trying to see about a spot on the 'Rebellion' festival but we haven't got a response yet. I would love to go to England , we know the language !!! My German is non-existent !! We'll see , maybe it will take us another 10 year's to get there.

Back home in the States do you get to play shows regularly ? Have you got a favourite venue / bar in your hometown ?

Over the year's we have played a lot locally. We try to keep it to one or two gigs a month at this point. We like to practice weekly and write songs more than play bar gigs sometimes. The venue situation in Pittsburgh sucks ,

Dickhead promoter's treat you like dirt and will make you sell tickets just to play the gig. You have to make the music, sell your tickets like a fucking girl scout cookie box, peddling to your friends. We just decided after a while not to deal with them. We play at the 'Smiling Moose' in the Southside and try to play all ages shows. The Punk scene in Pittsburgh is so segregated these days. Year's ago all of the bands would play gigs in the name of Punk Rock but now the political Punk scene doesn't want anything to do with us and we of them. They are mostly a bunch of pussies that talk a good game but will never back their words. There are a few bands we like playing with here though.

From the shows you've played has there been a favourite? a worst?

I would have to say that the 'HITS' in New Jersey in 2002 was my favourite. Although the show in Leipzig, Germany was awesome, there were nearly 1000 people there and most were sussed Skinheads, you don't get to see that too often in the States. As for a worst show.. We played while on tour in 1999 in a place called Gaylordsville, Connecticut, the name says it all! No one showed, it was us, a band from Texas, a band from Sweden and this Hippie promoter who was the spitting image of Neil from The Young Ones!. Long story short, this prick Neil set up a gig in a country town with no scene, said "He was trying to create one", his acid trip ended with us threatening to destroy the bar and demanding money out of him. The other bands left quickly when the commotion started. We made him call a friend to come and pay us cause he was out of cash. After all we drove 14 hours and were given a guarantee. We left with our money and some weird dude telling us he loves us and wants us to move to Costa Rica to play the concert circuit there. We had to drive away with this Costa Rican lunatic hanging from our van window Don't ever play there !!!!!!!

You're about to release your fourth full length can you tell us about that? What can we expect and how does it compare to your previous releases?

This new LP "Generation Of Today" is by far the best stuff we've put out in my opinion. We really liked "Dead Society" and were a bit disappointed in the production quality of "The Way It Is, Was And Will Be". The new one is really good and it was stuck in the car stereo's of some friends I burned copies for. We re-recorded a few off of the last LP because we felt the songs deserved better justice to be recorded at our usual studio.

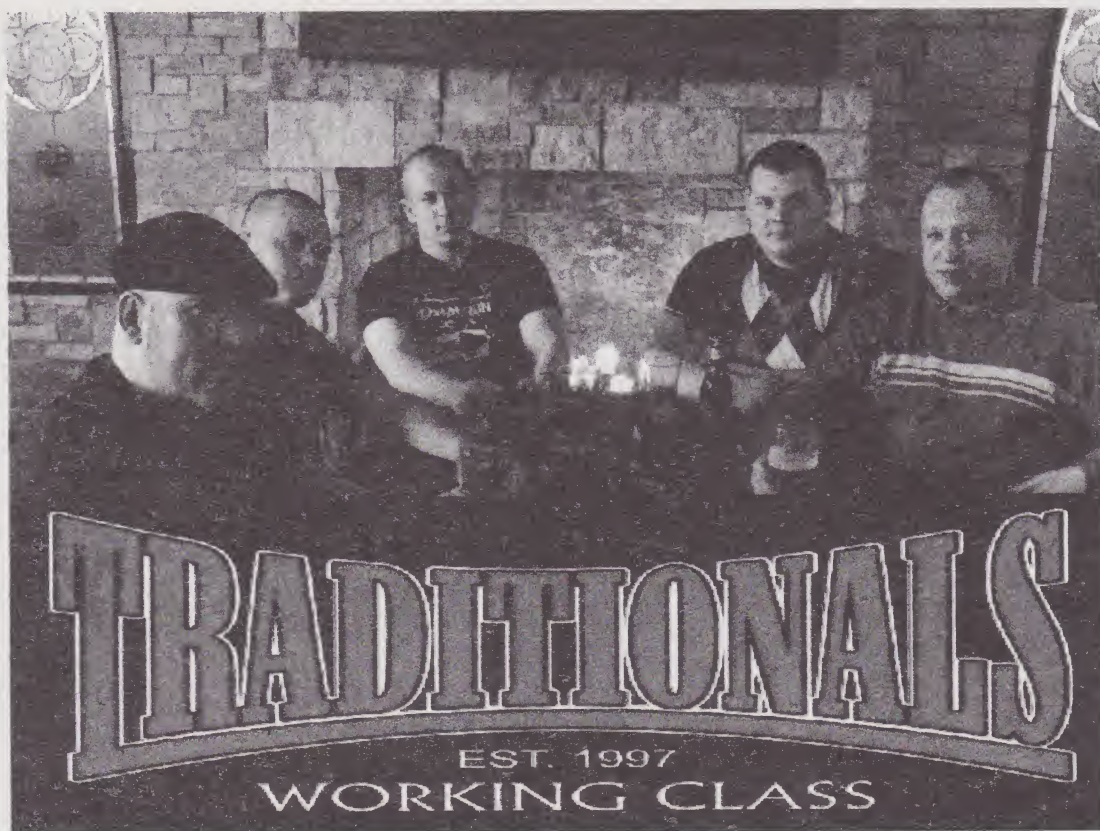
You're on the German label 'Impact Records', how'd you hook up with them? Does it ever pose problems having an overseas label?

Andy, the owner of the label, got a hold of a 6 song EP we recorded and offered us a deal in 2003. We have had a great relationship with 'Impact' in the 4 years since. We have never had a problem with the overseas thing, we trust each other and are friends. I wish we were a bit more known, but I think that's from our inability to tour regularly. Gotta go to work, know what I mean?!



What's your thoughts on the current US scene? How do you think it compares to when you first got involved? And how would you like to see it go in the future?

Honestly the scene in the US is good when there is a festival or something but I don't see the turnouts at the local shows. Does not compare to when I was younger though. I don't see the new breed causin' trouble in the bars like we did , crashing fraternity keg parties and beating the shit out of people for the fun of it. I miss the look on the faces of the party goers when 20 Skins would knock on the door and ask to enter. Man , do I wish I was 19 again ! I think that the Skinhead and Punk culture will stick around for a long time. Like bikers , Rockabillys , Mods , Hippies and Rudeboys , they have chipped out a groove in the world and working class people who take pride in themselves have a place to call home.



And what's your local scene like ? Are there many shows , bands etc .. ? And do folks turn out for shows ? The Pittsburgh scene seems to be in a lull. Not too many great shows to talk about lately. Folks turn out for some shows and not for others. If Dropkick Murphys play then you'll have 2000 little bastards in ivy hats , boots , perrys and the whole nine. No one has ever seen them before. We still try and organise local gigs to get more of a following locally , it will come around again.

Which bands currently around in the States do you like ? Are there any up 'n' coming bands you'd advise us to look out for ?

I like The Templars , Ivy League , Vanguard , Straght Laced , Aggrolites .. there are a lot of bands that don't come to mind that I like.

How'd you get into Punk / Oi! etc ? And what does being a Skinhead mean to you ?

When I was about 15 I felt out of place in High School cause my family didn't have money and the new Air Jordan's were out of mom's price range if you know what I mean. Some of the friends I skated with shaved their heads and began to hang around with a local Skinhead crew called 'Grudge Skins'. I really identified with these guys cause they would brag about a 2 dollar Fred Perry they got at a thrift shop. I shaved my head one night after drinking Mickey's big mouth and shouting 4 Skins songs until 4 am or so. I have never grown it since and it's been over 16 years. 99% of the guy's in the crew in 1990 have faded from the scene. I am still proud to associate myself with Skins. Most of the real Skins I have met over the years were good people , I mean what else can you be involved with where if I were to say , come over to England , have a pint with you and 5 guys start fucking with us , I mean I don't even have to know you personally to know that if you're a Skin then you'll have my back.

What do you think about the fact that so many people are on the net ? And what's your opinion on My Space ? Do you think it's a good thing or do you see a downside to it all ?

I try not to fight technology. I mean I still got my vinyl for nostalgic reasons but I think that the access to people and music on the net is great. I used to have to jump through hoops and go on road trips for music. Now all you need to do is type your thought into google and go. My Space is really cool I think , and I wish I had more time to go on there , I had to get my internet shut off cause I couldn't afford it. I do like browsing through band pages and listening to music. I think the downside is that bands that would squeak by with record and CD sales while on the

road and now get next to nothing with the download revolution. Therefore many of the bands you may have seen come to be, will split up after financial problems. When you practice for hours on end weekly to lose money at your gigs it gets frustrating. We look at it as an interest and that way when we lose it's like paying your bowling league dues or something.

How do you feel about so many of the older bands getting back together? Do you think it's good or bad for the scene / music in general?

I think it's a good thing I got to see Cock Sparrer in NYC in 2001, The Adicts in '94 and in 2002 Stiff Little Fingers, The Business and UK Subs. As long as they still put out good sounds. I hate it when a band reforms in a drunken stupor and plays the songs out of tune and key. They should get back to warming the corner barstool at the local pub. There are Jamaican acts like The Skatalites, Toots & The Maytals, The Melodians, Laurel Aitken that have been playing for 40 year's together, that's what keeps me going.

What would you say are the best and worst thing's about the scene today?

Best thing would have to be the internet and the worst would have to be too many labels and sub-divisions in Punk. You'll hear bands describe themselves as "We're kinda like Streetpunk, Crustcore, Goth with a twist of Emo and Oi!", this shit is getting ridiculous!

What's currently on your CD/Record player? And best record or CD you've bought?

I was just listening to The Members "Sound Of The Suburbs" and my favourite records are probably Cock Sparrer's "Shock Troops" or The Partisans "The Time Was Right".

What have The Traditionals got planned for the future?

More music, more good times with our friends drinking beer, and who knows maybe we'll write that hit tune that gets us millions and we'll be eating little olives on a yacht, but not likely!

Any messages?

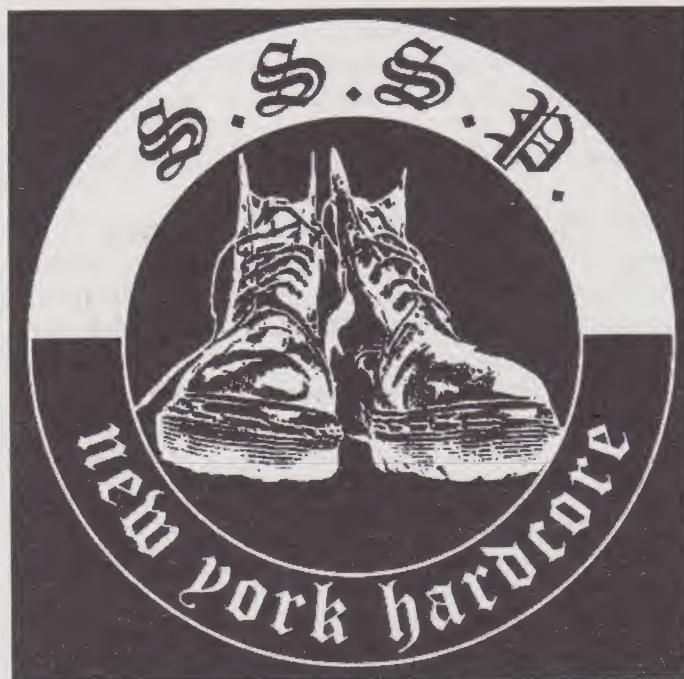
Buy the new CD when it come sout, don't download it. We will use the money to get to your town. Thanks for the interview Sean, the questions were great and it really gave me a chance to reflect the history of the band and my life. If anyone wants to contact us email thetraditionals@hotmail.com

And cheers to you Dave for taking the time to answer the questions, nice one mate, it's much appreciated.

Good luck with the new CD and with anything you and the band do in the future, and I for one look forward to seeing The Traditionals play here in England !!!

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well SSSP are a band that I had heard a lot about but never actually heard until Mark of 'Koi Records' sent me a copy of their 7" to review, liking what I heard an interview had to follow! So off went some questions and back came the answers courtesy of Mike D and Vinnie Value

Let's start at the beginning , when and why did you form SSSP ? And where'd the name of the band come from and what does it stand for , for those that don't know ?

VALUE – I had a bunch of songs that wouldn't work with the bands that I was doing , so I asked Mike D if he would record them with me. He also added a few things and we recorded them never thinking it would be released. So I guess we started in 2006. S.S.S.P came about from a conversation Mike and I were having about Skinheads. I said "Skinheads Still Scare People" , being such a true statement we decided to call our project this.

What's the line up and who does what ? Have you had many / any line up changes ?

VALUE – Right now it's just Mike and I , I really want to have the right line up for a full band. I'm not going to get someone just because they play well. They have to understand what we're about and have similar ideals. So until then , on the recordings , I play drums and scream and Mike plays bass and guitar.

Had any of you been in bands before joining/forming S.S.S.P ? Are either of you involved in other bands or projects ?

MIKE D – I was in Kill Your Idols , Celebrity Murders , C.R. , Serpico and Milhouse amongst others. Right now S.S.S.P. is the only music project I am involved with.

VALUE – I was in Warzone , No Redeeming Social Value , Kill Your Idols , Greyarea , Cold Front , Fit Of Anger. KYI just played their last shows so S.S.S.P is officially my only project.

What bands would you say have played a big part in influencing S.S.S.P ? And what other things influence the band , your music and way of thinking ?

MIKE D – Musically I would say bands like Warzone , Agnostic Front , The 4 Skins , The Last Resort , The Business and Minor Threat are a big influence. Dealing with life on a day to day basis would have to be the main thing that influences my thought process.

Who comes up with the lyrics ? Do they find it hard to come up with new material ? And where do their ideas come from ?

VALUE – All of my ideas come from personal experiences I've had in my life. There are times where I have blocks , so I don't force it. Usually it just flows out of me from something that could have happened earlier in the day.

Do you have a favourite S.S.S.P song , if so which one and why ?

MIKE D – I don't know if I have ONE favourite ... if I had to narrow it down I would say musically and lyrically .. "Where I Belong" , "Jimmy" , "By My Side" and "Never Give In". But I love everything we've done so far.

VALUE – I honestly love all our songs , but if I have to pick .. I'd say "Never Give In" and "I Don't Like You". "Never Give In" because it's about the Skinhead lifestyle and how misunderstood it is. How the media portray us like a bunch of violent savages. "I Don't Like You" is pretty self explanatory. I'll always do what I want and don't care what people think about it. Living my life my way.

Do you get to play many shows ?

MIKE D – Right now the band is just me and Vinnie so we haven't played out yet. We hope to have a solid live line up together so we can play when the LP comes out. We have a few people in mind that we will be asking to play with us , so hopefully it works out.

Would you say you have a good mixture of Punks , Skins , Hardcore kids listening to your music ?

VALUE – Our 7" has circulated pretty well , judging on the feedback via email etc .. on the East Coast. I would say we have a mixed following of Skins , punks and just misfits of society that don't seem to fit in with any crowd. Seems to be more Skins in Europe though.

Do you play outta town/state much ?

MIKE D – Well , we have done many , many shows out of town and oversea's with our past bands but none yet as S.S.S.P. . I'm going to quote Warzone here "We may be different but in our heart's it's all the same".

If anyone reading this came to town where would you advise 'em to go for a beer and catch a show ?

MIKE D – NY is hurting for venues that do true Punk / Hardcore shows right now .. I mean low door price , all ages shows with no barricades , no meathead bouncers , no money hungry promoters .. it seem's as fast as the kids get something going the cops come and shut it right the fuck down .. I would say .. go to New Jersey hahaha.

VALUE – I would say ABC NO RIO in NYC at 156 Rivington Street or 538 Johnson Ave in Brooklyn. You can catch a beer across the street at a bodega , but the shows there are really DIY. Everything else in NYC sucks. Seriously , you can't get a good Punk / Skin vibe in a club with a barricade and bouncers (staff). New Jersey has the Log Cabin in Toms River which is awesome , Philly has the Unitarian Church which I like a lot.



If you could play with any band , past or present , who would it be and why ?

MIKE D – I would love to play a show with The Templars. They have been around forever and nothing seems to get in their way. They have my respect. I can't say that about a lot of bands around today. Other bands I would love to see and or play with would be Street Dogs , On File and Perkele.

VALUE – I would love to play with The Bruisers again , I'd actually love to play with Seaweed as well , just because they are amazing and it would be the weirdest mix of people in one room , and The Varukers.

How'd you get into Punk / Oil / Hardcore ? And what does it mean to you to be involved ?

MIKE D – When I was a kid I was really into Metal. I always's loved loud , fast music. Bands like Slayer and Voivod would talk about bands like Broken Bones , Agnostic Front , DRI , Black Flag , Suicidal etc .. I started getting into those bands as a result of that. When I was 15 I met a guy from an old NYHC band called Stillborn named Mike Catricolla. He got me way into stuff like Sheer Terror , AF , The Cro Mags .. and stuff like that .. I found myself much more interested in Hardcore , Punk and Oil! at that point and the rest is history.

VALUE – It basically made me who I am today. I based a lot of my life around HC and the message. I too was really into Metal . Possessed , Kreator , Death. My cousin made me a mix tape of AF , Corrosion Of Conformity , Minor Threat , The Meatmen. I liked the rawness of this sound a lot better than the over produced Metal. So I started listening to HC , started going to shows and met Raybeez. That opened me up to endless Oil! mixes he made for me , I still have them.

What do you think of all the old bands that have reformed / are reforming ? Do you think it's a good thing ?

MIKE D – I think it's a load of shit. I think all the people who are jumping on these bands dicks are a fucking disgrace.

VALUE – "Bands re-uniting , but it don't mean a thing" , sorry but I had to quote myself. That is basically what our song "Where I Belong" is about.

What's your opinion on the current U.S. scene ? And what bands around in it currently do you like ? Are there any up 'n' coming bands you'd advise us to check out ?

MIKE D – I think it's still strong. I don't like to dwell on the past. As long as there are kids that are still supporting all ages DIY Hardcore / Punk show's then it's a good thing. I am constantly listening to Street Dogs from Boston and Capital from Long Island.

VALUE – I like to dwell in the past and I pretty much listen to a lot of old Straight Edge stuff , along with classic NYHC. There is a great scene in Boston / Brockton , Mass. area. Colin Of Arabia is a band I've been listening to , Cloak/Dagger from Virginia are pretty good , Pulling Teeth from Baltimore , Maryland , Steel Toe Solution from New Jersey ...

You released a great 7" on 'Koi Records' , what's your personal opinion on it ? And what's the feedback been like ? How'd you

hook up with Mark / 'Koi' ?

MIKE D – Wow thanks !! I am really proud of that record. It came together so quickly and I think it came out exactly how we'd envisioned it. So far people seem to really like it .. and if they don't ? .. Fuck 'em ! , you can't please everyone. Kill Your Idols and Celebrity Murders had both contributed songs to the "Scream For Help" compilation that Mark put out. It is a benefit record for the animals in Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina. After that was done Mark and I were communicating back and forth via emails and he said if there was anything I wanted to put out on vinyl to send it his way and he would consider doing it .. Well I sent the demo track's and a few month's later the 7" was released. He has been amazing to work with , Top man , that Mark !

I understand that you're about to release a full length on 'Koi' can you tell us about that ? What's it going to be called and what can we expect ?

VALUE – it's going to be called "For Life" , we are really proud of this record and I hope it wakes a lot of people up. You can expect REAL Hardcore with a splash of Oi! , taking it back to the streets. I hope people read the lyric's and think about them.

I noticed that there was an Anti nazi logo on your 7" , is that something you feel strongly about ? Do you think it's important to say where you stand ?

MIKE D – Being a Nazi is fucking shit. Come on now , it's 2007 , get your head's out of your asses. If you can't stand behind your words you're nothing.

VALUE – I think it's important that people understand what we're about.

What's next for S.S.S.P. ?

MIKE D – Well , the album is due out in July , then we are doing a cool 6 song 10" EP with awesome artwork from our friend Muna. Hopefully we will have a solid line up this Summer so we can play some shows !

Any messages ?

MIKE D – Thanks a lot for the kind words and for doing this interview , and thanks to Mark and Muna for taking such an active role in the production of this album !!

VALUE – Thanks for giving us the opportunity to be heard , thanks to Mark and Muna for being so amazing and inspiring. It's people with heart that get me motivated to continue on in such a frustrating music scene.



Well it's just left to me to say a big cheers to Mike and Vinnie for taking the time to do this interview , appreciated fella's. And best of luck with the new album , and the 10" , after hearing the 7" i for one can't wait to hear 'em !! All the best for the future .. and if you ain't heard S.S.S.P. yet .. make the fuckin' effort !!!

FANZINE REVIEWS

Oil The Print #22 – Markus P. , Wiener Ring 18-2-5 , 2100 Korneuburg , Austria.

Man , this is one of the best fanzines I've seen , it's the bollox ! Colour cover and just so well put together , it puts my efforts to shame ! Issue 22 sees the likes of Styrian Bootboys , Perkele , Pilsner Oiquell , Skaos , Towerblocks and loads more besides. Like I said Oil The Print is one of the best I've seen and if I could speak german I'd be a fuckin' happy bunny !!! (€1.50 + post)

Pour Ma Classe #2 – C/O Via Casa Zuccarini 20 , 41020 Verica Di Pavullo , Modena (Italy).

A4 sized 'zine put out by Jack and Baku , who also have summat to do with 'Spirit Of 36 Records' , well laid out and printed 'Pour Ma Classe' looks to be a really good read – working class and anti fascist to the core. As it's in Italian I can't understand a word of it but like I say it looks a good read so if you are an Italian reader it's a must have !

Anarchoi #16/#17/#19/#20 – 3 Hazel Grove , Kilwinning , Ayrshire , KA13 7JH , Scotland. -

First time I'd ever seen this Scot's zine and I gotta say I enjoyed reading through it .. in the 4 issues I got sent you have interviews with the likes of Splinter , Paranoid Visions , The Dragged , Toxic Reasons , Shame Academy and The Lobotomies to name but a few... plus theres articles and reviews galore. Jaz does a real good 'zine I reckon , handwritten in places as well as typed helps to enforce the DIY ethic of the whole 'zine writing thing – well worth checking out peeps !

Initonit #21 – 10 Regent Court , Princes St. , Peterborough , PE1 2QR , England.

Well Initonit is a nice compact readable A5 sized zine – there's a coupla interviews , namely Dogsflesh and To What End – both good reads. Plus there's articles galore covering a wide range of subjects including hitch hiking , animal rights , culture etc .. all in all a tidy 'zine and a good read and definatley one to invest in. (50p + SAE / £1.00 postpaid)

Skinhead Revolt #2 – www.myspace.com/patrickpoland

Second issue of this anti fascist / RASH Polish language zine and it see's Patrick keeping up the great work that he started in issue one , this issue see's the likes of Esclaves Salaries , Kortatu , The Analogs , The Oppressed .. and loads of articles as well as the usual reviews .. good stuff and well worth supporting ! keep it up Patrick !!

Voice Of the Street #9 – www.myspace.com/vots

Yet another great 'zine that's in german which is a shame for people like me who don't speak other languages , damn I should of paid attention at school !! V.O.T.S. is well layed out and printed and is another that look the absolute bollox , inside #9 you'll find the likes of Lousy , Towerblocks , Ultimatum , Skoidats , Crusaders , Noble cause and loads more ... this is great stuff and well worth investing in.

Negative Reaction #8 – 20 New Front St. , T/Lea , Stanley , Co.Durham , DH9 9LY , England.

Yet another issue of Negative Reaction featuring Trev's sense of humour and scathing reviews ... as well as his views on life and shit in general .. issue 8 see's interesting interviews with Riot Squad , the Tights , The Blood , Conflict , The Warriors , The Violators (the last 3 being interviewed by steve of 'Streetvoice') ..and sum great articles such as 'Fight The Real Enemy' , 'Abandon Ship It's The Royal Mail' and my favourite 'Negative Reaction Vs The Modern World' which is a fucking great read and funny as fuck believe me .. as usual Negative Reaction is a great read and has to be a gotta get !!

No Bollox Just Oil #1 – OP 31 CP 28 , Bucharest , Romania.

Bloody hell for a first issue this is the mutts nuts !! Full colour front and back covers , and glossy pages throughout !! Some of its written in Romanian but for the most part it's in English which makes things easier for me !! The first issue features the likes of Splinter , Haggis , Union Boys , Foreign Legion , Squid 56 , Destroil ! , Unit Lost , USCB All Stars and more besides .. plus articles on the likes on football madness – an introduction to Romanian Ultraseria , American pitbull terriers ... and more ... all in all not bad at all !! Also comes with a CD so that's a fuckin bonus and a half !

Anti-Hippie #2 – www.myspace.com/oibootboy

A5 sized Oil , Punk and Ska zine from Finland that is written in English and reads really well .. there's a good article on black people involved in Punk , an interesting write up on Belfast Punks and a few other articles besides plus theres interviews with the likes of Steve Goodman , The Symptons , Bover Boys and more ... all in all a decent tidy 'zine that's worth checking out.

I Believe In Myself #6 – Audrey Lidec , 28-1 Avenue Le Brix , 35740 Pace , France.

Well since the last issue Audrey has upped the size of the zine from A5 to A4 and for me this is a lot better , definatley the best issue yet I would say ! As always IBIM is well laid out and tidy and is one of the zines I really enjoy reading. Audrey does the interviews in both English and her native language , French which works well and this time round theres interviews with The Young Ones , Towerblocks , The Rudes , Bombardiers and Camden Town plus the usual reviews and stuff. One to get hold off ! (€2.00)

Une Vie Pour Rien ? #7 – BP 80 138 , 75 623 Paris Cedex 13 , France.

First time I'd seen this French 'zine , it's definatley one of the best ones on the market ! Glossy cover , well printed and layed out and good , thorough interviews that are in both French and English. This issue see's interviews with Camera Silens , Bombardiers , Toro Bravo , Zona A , Nabat , Voice Of Boys , Boiler and Steve Goodman .. like I said all interesting stuff and some of the bands interviewed reads like a who's who of European Oi ! / Punk !! This issue also comes with a 4 track EP that is a stormin' listen and contains tracks by The Rudes , Boiler , The Daltons and Gonna Get Yours .. Une Vie Pour Rien ? is a must have as far as I'm concerned !! (€7.00 inc. post)



Well I got sent a copy of The Ratfinks CD and thought it was a great fuckin' listen ! So an interview had to follow . . . it's that simple ! So I got in touch with Guy and he got back to me with the answer's ... helped by Ben occasionally ...

So when and why did The Ratfinks form and where did the name of the band come from ?

I went to NY , was broke , came back home and wanted to make a good fuckin' don't give a fuck Streetpunk /Oi! shit good music to drink / fuck / fight to , you know ? Everything else sucked ass to us. We're full of hate so we started writing songs and playing shows , over 4 years we have had many line up changes to get to this core family we have now. I stole the name from some friends I was in a band with in high school haha fuck 'em !

Whose in the band and what do they do ?

Rev. Phil - Drums (also in the band Mike Bison) , Ben 'The Mexican' - Strings and screams/drunken ladies man , Guy Fink - Microphone/fucker and Josh Barg - Bass/Skateboarding.

Ron has not long left the band as he's moving to Chicago , how much will he be missed and what's his replacement like ?

Well Ron is still a Ratfink , he plays guitar when he can make it to shows from Chicago. Josh is a permanent solution for what was a part time problem. He's a working class skater that only listens to Cold As Life , Cro-Mags and Negative Approach , we're lucky to have him.

You've recently released a full length "Detroit Fuckers" , can you tell us a bit about it ? How's it doing and what's your views on the outcome ? And what kind of feedback you had on it so far ?

It took us 4 years to sober up enough to record the fucker ! it's 13 tracks of Drunk 'n' Detroit Hate. We and our fans love it , fuck anybody that doesn't.

How did the CD launch show go ? Cos it was also Ron's final show with the band weren't it ?

It sold out ! The show was a fucking rowdy drunken riot ! That's how we roll ! It was not Ron's final show but an introduction to him on second guitar.

Talking of shows what's a typical Ratfinks show like ? Do the crowd really get involved ?

A typical Ratfink show is we give it our all and play til we drop , literally. The crowd gets real into it , shouting . throwing beers , sometimes it gets outta hand but towards the end of our set / case of beer so do we haha.

Do you get to play regularly ? Has there been a favourite show so far , if so which one and why ?

Yeah we're chock full of Detroit hate / pride , so we play pretty much whenever we want. We were playing 2 shows a month in Detroit for almost 4 years. Since we set it off and try to make it a fuckin' party they all become 'our favourite for real.

From the bands you've played with which ones have impressed you the most ? Are there any bands , past or present , that you'd like to do a show with but haven't managed to yet ?

We have played with Beerzone everytime they've come to Detroit , it's always a good time and a fucking riot and our boys Death In Custody play some old school Detroit Hardcore. There's way to many bands we would wanna play shows with but shit definatley Murphy's Law and past .. Anti Heros.

Do you play outta your hometown / state very often ? How does an outta town show compare to playing at home ?

Because of no money / work / jail time we have just now started to play outta state more. Outta state shows are definatley less violent (so far) but then again there's no place like home.

What bands do you listen to and which ones would you say most influence The Ratfinks , musically or otherwise ?
 80's Oi! and Streetpunk , Anti Heros , Negative Approach , Murphy's Law , Cold As Life , The Business , 4 Skins , Cro-Mags , Infa Riot , Gang Green , Rush , Iron Maiden , Easy E .. really all that shit has been a major influence on our music and our fuckin' lives. All of us bring our own influences to the table when we write , it's a cluster fuck of ideas usually.



Detroit has given us some great bands over the years , why do you think that is ? And what Detroit bands , past or present , do you like / listen to ?

Detroit has an attitude like no other , it's in the air. Motown , NA , The Stooges ..

And what do you think of the current Detroit scene ? Is it a strong united scene ?

It's pist , you have Punks , Hardcore , Skins , Greaser , Weirdo type people that are full of hate. That all makes up the scene , it's not the biggest but it's definatley united as everyone knows each other in someway. But at the same time doesn't give a shit.

And whats your thoughts on the current US scene as a whole ? And what do you think are the best and worst things about it ?

Not to be an asshole , but this past Summer I think has sucked , but there is a lot of new US Oi!/Streetpunk and Hardcore bands that are pretty fucking good 'n' pist that are just starting to get out there. Worst thing about the US scene , there is a lot of Pop – Punk sympathy , I mean come on really it's not Punk .. you're just a Emo bitch !! We only give a fuck about our home Detroit , it's all we know really.

If you could sum up the band and it's members in 4 words what would they be ?

Pist , Party'n , Obnoxious , Rabel Rousers haha.

What got you into Punk , Oi! and Hardcore and what does it mean to you to be involved ? Can you see a day when your not involved or into the music ?

Ben – The attitude of the music made me wanna play like that. It's the way I live my life , involved , supporting and havin fun doing it ! No , if I'm not into this shit I would not be living.

Guy – Black Flag's just don't give a fuck , fuck you ! let's drink and party attitude got me into it – and the community of it all. Nah , as I get older I find new things that I fucking can't stand ! Working Class HATE ! ha.



Have you released anything else other than the new full length ? And where can people get hold of your merch ?

No we haven't put anything else out besides a few demos. You can get our CD from our My Space page or from 'Interpunk' for right now.

You're on My Space , is that the bands only website ? Do you keep it updated regularly ? What's your thoughts on My Space ?

Guy — Yeah it's free , I don't really know why people make a big deal about it , fuck it , it's bullshit but it gets your shit out and we keep it very up to date.

Ben — ComputerS ?

What's your opinion on these bands that appear on MTV 'n' shit and try to pass themselves off as Punk ? And what do you think of the plastic fuckers that follow 'em ?

Ben — I would classify that type of music as fucking bullshit. It's a bunch of dumbass girl pants wearin' bitches cryin' about fashion or how they broke a nail. The people that follow are fuckin' worthless.

Guy — I don't fuckin' know , they're just as fake as any other band that is on that shit. AFI was Punk ??

And knowing how much you love Emo's haha what's your take on the whole fuckin' Emo craze thing ?

Ben — They all need to be shot in the crotch !

Guy — Emo craze ? Bullshit music with no core .. IT'S PERFECT FOR THE MAINSTREAM.

What's your all time top 10 ?

1) Free beer .. 2) Alcohol .. 3) Beer .. 4) Pissing off people .. 5) Playing shows .. 6) Shootin' pool .. 7) .. What do you mean top 10 ?? haha

What's next for The Ratfinks ?

Well we are going to try and put out as much new music as we can , 7 inches along with a split in the works with Death In Custody , other than that just playing shows and drinkin' a few , it's what we do best.

Any messages ?

Fuck you if we offend you ! Shut the fuck up and drink your beer !! Thin skinned assholes should just stay home ! Fuck you this is Detroit !!



Well cheers to Guy and Ben for doing the interview .. nice one ! Look forward to hearing more of The Ratfinks in the not too distant future ... and people if you wanna hear some real Detroit Hate check out there full length

THE RATFINKS – DETROIT HATE !

THE ZERO POINT

Well The Zero Point are one of Denmarks longest running Punk bands having originally formed way back in 1979 !! After splitting up Steen got the bug again and reformed the band in 2002 and the boys have been going strong ever since

Well Steen The Zero Point originally formed way back in 1979 and then you split in the mid-late 80's , can you give us a brief history of the band during this period ? And why did you decide to call it a day when you did ?

I formed the band together with Henrik Lund , who also stayed in the band until the split up in 1987. We went to school together and so did Peter (our first bass player). I was lucky enough to spend the Summer of '77 in England. I bought some of the first Punk Rock records and brought them home to Denmark ... it was just what we had been looking for !! Fantastic !!! After the first Punk festival here in Denmark (1978) we decided for real that we had to form our own band ! About a year later we played our debut show at exactly the same venue where the Punk festival was held the previous year. We have had several line up changes over those early years but the most steady line up we had was when Dennis (drums) joined Henrik and myself (Steen) and later on we were joined by a second guitarist named Jens Muller. Well it was actually the other guys who took the decision to call it a day. There was no big fall out or anything ... I just think they wanted to do different things in their lives And for me , at that point I had started listening to some heavier stuff .. I didn't protest too much , maybe we just needed to do something different for a while ??

And when and why did you decide to reform the band ? Is it the original line up ?

Why ? I needed to kick some ass so badly !!! While I have been away from music there hasn't been a day when I didn't dream about getting back into it ! Punk Rock is in my veins .. I'm a Rock 'n' Roll junkie haha ! We started up again in 2002 .. or I started working on it .. I contacted Henrik , Dennis and Jens from the longest existing line up. Jens was really into it and Dennis agreed. Henrik didn't want to do it because of his family BUT he thought it was a great idea and that we should go ahead .. so enter long time friend Anderz as the new bass player. We did our comeback show at the 'Anti-Fest 2003' in the Czech republic .. Amazing ! More than 5,000 people showed up at the festival ! What a comeback !! After that we were invited to England to play the 'Punk Aid' Festival ... This was when the other 3 members of the band decided that this was getting way too big for them .. but they thought that I should find some fresh blood who was really into it .. And that was just what I did , the new line up of The Zero Point debuted at the 'Punk Aid' festival 2004 in England and we've been together ever since.

Were you in any other bands during the time The Zero Point had split up ? And did you keep in touch with the other members of the band ?

Right after the split I fronted Danish Trash/Death Metal pioneers Desexult for a couple of years and in the early 90's former Zero Point guitarist Frank and I formed a Punk Rock cover band called Jumpin' Red Jesus. Henrik , Dennis and I have always had some kind of contact .. nothing big .. but we have kept in touch .. and they still show up at our shows . The rest I never see or hear from.

How would you say your sound compares to when you first started out ?

AAUUUUCCHH !!! When we started up we really could not play ... today we have learned to fake it hahaha ! No seriously as we get better our standards get higher and we really care about good productions .. but we are still straight up kick ass Punk Rock ! I would say that this is the best sounding line up of the band ever !!

And from when you started out how would you say the Punk / Oi! scene has changed in your native Denmark ? Would you say that the changes have been for the better ?

In the early days everything was buzzing .. the air was electric .. and Punk was not really defined yet. A lot of creativity and so on .. it was a great feeling !! Now it is like Punk has become a music genre , you can play Punk like you play the Blues or Metal. WE WANT THE DANGER BACK INTO PUNK !!!! The scene in Denmark basically sucks right now !! Shows are really hard to get .. and it is not like there aren't any people around ... there are some great bands as well .. the promoters and the venues just don't give a shit !!

And what about the European / World scene from what you've seen and heard ?

I think it is very , very nice to see all these old bands that have reformed or kept the banner flying for so many years playing together with all the new up coming bands. Sometimes when I am at a big festival I step back a bit to have a look at this wonderful sight , all these Punks and Skins of different ages having a great time and I think to myself "Just a bit , just a tiny bit of all this is your creation..." and it fills me with pride !!

What do you think are the best and worst things about todays scene ?

It really depends on how you define the scene , I mean Punk means a lot of different things to different people and I don't think one thing is necessarily better than the other. Well here we go anyway .. A great thing is that Punk seems to have had some kind of revival over the years ! A fucked up thing is the pretty boy Pop so called Punk bands that fills the magazines. But then again if they can lead a couple of guys / birds to straight hell raising Punk Rock .. then they are welcome !!

Which bands do you listen to and which would you say have influenced you the most ?

I am mostly into old school Punk and Oi! , but I really like Ska , Psychobilly , Rockabilly , Hardcore and stuff like that as well ..

Everything that rock's your socks off !!! I have got quite a big record/CD collection and listen to a lot of stuff. The bands that have influenced me the most must be .. The Sex Pistols , Ramones , The Clash , The Damned , Dead Boys , Stiff Little Fingers .. stuff like that .. but I am also really into bands like Cock Sparrer , Cockney Rejects , Angelic Upstarts and The Business as well.

From the bands around today which ones do you like ? Are there any Danish bands we should be looking out for ?

Ha ! Besides all the old bands there are still loads around that sound fucking great ! I really like bands like The Dropkick Murphys , Rancid , The Real McKenzies , Lars Frederiksen's solo stuff .. last CD I bought was by this new American band called Spoiler NYC .. great stuff , great tunes !! Oh yes and of course .. Out4w !! Danish bands ? Yes sure The Guv'nors are a great Punk Rock 'n' Roll band , if you dig Garage then The Defectors are a real great band. If you dig NYHC then check out Barcode , if it's Hardcore Punk you're after then it's War Of Destruction , and if you like your Punk a bit Poppy then it's The Prankster's.

You were voted amongst the best Punk/Oi! bands in the world , how'd that come about ? And how did it make you feel ?

Actually we have been voted in twice !! Both times on the internet site "Punk & Oi! In The UK" ... eh... I don't know .. people actually voted for us .. I know it doesn't mean that we are more popular than a lot of the bands that we were placed above in the chart .. eh .. but it must mean that our fans and supporters cared enough to turn on their computers and actually vote ! I was glad , even though I know it doesn't mean that we are big shots. It gave us some exposure and a chance to shout "Oi! We are still fucking here" !!

What have you released to date and where can people get hold of them ?

2 x 7" EP's , a tape and some stuff on compilations. You can only get them from collectors and record fairs and then you will have to pay a hell of a lot of money for them !! But all that old stuff has just been released on one CD called "Hooligans With Cheap Guitars" by American label 'GTA Records'. It should be available from 'Plastichead' and then some independent distro's in the UK , if you still can't get it I know that 'Interpunk' has got it .. and 'Bomp Records'. Besides that we have got a brand new track out on a compilation CD called "Nothing Set In Stone" on UK label 'Thunk Records' with great bands like The Skeptix , Section 5 , Head Clinic and so on ..

You're currently working on a new CD can you tell us a bit about that and when you're hoping to have it out ?

The complete CD has already been recorded , mixed and mastered. Right now we are trying to find the right label to release it on .. ha ! or just any label to release it ! ☺ Hopefully it will be out in the Autumn .. but tomorrow would be a better date !

How would you say it compares to the "Hooligans With Cheap Guitars" CD ?

"Hooligans .." is all the old shit ... this is the new breed !!!! It's technically much better and it has got a great production as well .. we have learned a lot and stuff .. but it is still in your face Punk Rock !

Who writes the lyrics and where do the ideas for them come from ?

I do most of the lyrics now. Anders has done a bit and the rest has thrown in bits and pieces .. but its mainly me. We sing about everyday life now. We are not really into politics. We like to point our finger at stuff but mainly its about drinking , personal frustrations and fucked up stories like "Shitfaced In A Spitfire".

Is there a song that you'd class as your favourite ?

No not really. It's like one day I enjoy playing this song and the next day I will prefer another. "Life's A Bitch (And then You Die)" is amongst my favourites .. it's got a great sing-a-long chorus .. haha and we used to play it at the end of our set.

When and why did you first get into Punk/Oi! ? And what does it mean to you ?

Oh as I told you , I got into Punk in 1977. Why ? I was very young , only 14 , but I was already into real noisy Rock music. The Glam stuff and early KISS .. I read about this Punk thing before I left for England and I was really eager to check it out .. Well it turned out to be everything that I had ever wanted .. we didn't have to mime anymore to Slade on the record player , we could do it ourselves , pick up a guitar and start a band. It was fantastic ! VIVA LE PUNK ! My dear mother wasn't so pleased .. but my dad always supported me. Well for me I guess , Punk is my life. It's a lot of good memories and a lot of great things to come ! It's a hell of a lot of good friends , it is a big creative playground !

Whats next for the band ?

Hopefully a quick CD release and then we will do some shows / tours supporting the release. But then again one never knows , anyway we would like to get back on the road real soon. If anyone wants to book us please give us a shout !!

Top 10 of all time ?

Auuuchh – this is a hard one .. there are so many great albums and songs out there .. but I'll give it a shot : 1) Sex Pistols – "Never Mind The Bollocks". 2) Ramones – "Rocket To Russia". 3) The Damned – "Machine Gun Etiquette". 4) The Clash – "The Clash". 5) UK Subs – "Another Kind Of Blues". 6) Dead Boys – "Young Loud & Snotty". 7) Cock Sparrer – "Shock Troops". 8) Stiff Little Fingers – "Inflammable Material". 9) Slaughter & The Dogs – "Bite Back". 10) Cockney Rejects – "Greatest Hits Vol.1". But it's really hard to do .. a lot of great stuff that I have left out !!

Any messages Steen ?

Thanks a lot Sean for doing this interview !! We really hope to be back in the UK soon. Please check our My Space and homepage out – <http://www.myspace.com/thezeropoint> <http://www.thezeropoint.8k.com> . We hope to see you all soon !!!!

Well cheers to Steen for the interview , nice one mate . Looking forward to hearing the new disc when it comes out and it'll definatley be great to see The Zero Point back on these shores sometime in the near future !!!!

MOB were a new name to me before Christian of 'Anfibio Records' sent me their new CD to review .. and after hearing it I was well impressed with what I heard so I emailed the band and asked if they'd be up for an interview ... good guys that they are they said they were .. so off we go

MOB

When did Mob form and why ? And where did the name come from ?

The band was formed about 3 years ago. Vanta and Folk were in White Niggers , while Grigio and Fabrizio were 2 of the Etruskakids. We'd known each other for a long time so when these bands split we joined together to become Mob. We liked the name Mob because it reminds us of a sense of belonging , the union of a group , also , it's a direct name and easy to remember.

What's the current line up and who does what in the band ? has this always been the line up or have you had a few changes along the way ?

Mob have always been Vanta – Vocals , Folk – Bass , Fabrizio – Drums and Grigio – Guitar. Only on one occasion we had to change the line up , we had a gig in Brescia and Folk had to be replaced by a friend of ours (thanks Bigio !) because he plays football for a club and he had an important match that day.

What bands would you say influence your music the most ? And how would you best describe your sound and what the band are about / stand for ?

Some of us love Hardcore , some prefer Punk/Oil! so our musical tastes influence our sound , that is a mix of the two – we call it Oil-Core !

You've not long released a great CD on 'Anfibio Records' , how's that doing ? And what sort of feedback have you had on it so far ?

Firstly , thanks for the 'great' !! We are getting really good feedback , better than any of our expectations ! We see a growing interest from the kids , especially at our live gigs.

What's your personal opinion on the CD ? have you got a favourite track on the album , if so which one and why ? How did you get hooked up with Christian / 'Anfibio' ? Have you released anything else ?

We sent our recording to 'Anfibio Records' , who was suggested to us by a friend , and it turned out to be a really good suggestion because we knew a person like Christian loves and believes in what he's doing. We have become very good friends. He liked our work and gave us the chance to make the CD and helped to promote us. This is the first recording for any of us , we are happy just for this ! The quality of the recording is not perfect but we love it !! Everyone of us has a favourite song , it's not easy to say just one .. but we can mention the title track "Santi Senza Dio".

Who writes the lyrics and where do the ideas for them come from ? What kind of subjects do you sing about ?

Our vocalist has written all the lyrics so far except the covers of "Birra Gratis" and "Non Cambiero Mai" – they represent a tribute to two historical Italian bands , Alkolnauti and Basta ! The subjects of our songs come from what happens every day in the world and in our life. The lyrics are about political or social themes or about everyday life such as .. anti-fascism , religion , american imperialism , the vatican , our lifestyle , the police etc ...

Have you played many shows ? And do you get to play on a regular basis ?

We started to play around a couple of years ago. This year we are playing more often , particularly after the release of our CD and we see a good reaction from the crowd.

Has there been a favourite show so far ? Which bands that you've played with have impressed you the most ?

Maybe our last show in perugia has been the best upto now. It was a party organised by 'Armata Rossa' (Perugia's football club ultras) and it was a real massacre under the stage !! One of the bands we enjoyed playing with the most were The Stab , an Italian Punk band that's been around since the 80's.

If you had a chance to play with any band , past or present , who would it be and why ?

This is a terrible question ! After a hard think and vote , maybe it would be the Misfits !!

What's the scene like in Perugia ? Are there many bands , venues etc ?

Ten years ago there was a good scene here in Perugia , a very good crew but because of various events and some problems many people went their separate ways and just a few kids remained. The Hardcore scene has grown a lot over the past few years and during the last 2-3 years there's also been a 're-birth' of the Oil! scene , thanks to the anger and passion of a new generation of kids. Nowadays there are many Punk bands around in our city , a great Hardcore scene too and what we like most about it is that all the bands help and support each other. Perugia is full of disco's but there aren't many places where we can organise shows , there's just a squat and a few other places.

And what's your opinion on the Italian scene as a whole ? Which bands around at the moment in Italy do you like ?

There has been a big and important increase in the number of young bands in Italy and also many of the older bands are still active. We have to mention Klasse Kriminale , The Stab , Reazione , Steno (formerly Nabat's singer) amongst the more historical bands and S-Contro , Youngang and Bull Brigade from the younger generation.

Have you played outside of Italy ? Are there any plans to play abroad ?

We haven't played abroad but it seems that things are moving in that direction so we hope that we will be playing outside of Italy soon.

Italy has and is still giving us some great bands , are there any up 'n' coming bands that you'd advise us to check out ?
 Azione Diretta are a good band from our city and they are great friends of ours. We also want to mention Automatica
 Aggregazione with whom we shared the stage recently.

You have a page on My Space , do you update it regularly ? What do you think of my Space ?

We try to update it every day. My Space is a wonderful way to get in touch with your scene , your world and more than this it's
 extremely useful to help promote a bands activities ... and it's free !!!!

What's next for Mob ?

We are working on new songs , we would like to record our second CD for the end of the year. We are having fun playing and
 we want to go on like this.

Top 10 of all time ?

This is another terrible question but lets try .. not in order !!

1. "My Way" – Sid Vicious
2. "Last Caress" – Misfits
3. "Crucified" – Agnostic Front
4. "I Fought The Law" – The Clash
5. "Bro Hymn" – Pennywise
6. "Saturday's Heroes" – The Business
7. "Because You're Young" – Cock Sparrer
8. "Frana La Curva" – Erode
9. "Scenderemo Nelle Strade" – Nabat
10. "Polizia Assassina" – Bloody Riot

Well I'd just like to thank MOB for doing the interview , much appreciated ! And to wish you all the best for the future ..
 hurry up with second CD .. I can't wait to hear it !!!!



Caught In A Trap vocalist Fie got in touch with me about reviewing their new full length , after hearing it , and loving it , I thought an interview was definatley in order , to find out more about them and their music .. Take it away Fie ...



You've not long released a crackin' CD on 'No Joke Records' , what's your personal view on it ? And what kinda feedback have you had on it so far ?

The CD has been getting a good response so far .. the kids are diggin' it .. going crazy on the dancefloor and bumrushing the mic to sing along .. and when you're an old school type of band , you couldn't ask for anything more .. all we really wanted to dowas drop a real old style NYHC record .. balls out fast Hardcore .. and I think we accomplished that.

Who came up with the name of the album ? How did you decide which track's to put on it and have you got a favourite track ?

Well I'm a tattooist as a 'day job' .. and our drummer Jay came into the tattoo shop one day and was looking through some old classic tattoo flash .. there's an old design from back in the WWII days that had a skull with a rat on top of it .. with the words "rats get fat , while good men die" around it .. so as I'm tattooing this design on his arm .. I decided to write a song using the phrase as the chorus .. and since it is a pretty politically charged record .. we decided it was a good title for the CD .. we went in and recorded 16 songs with Don Fury , we chose the 14 that best fit the record , my personal favourites are "Nothing's Free" and "Look Inside".

How did you get hooked up with 'No Joke Records' ? Have you released anything else and are there any plans to release anything in the not to distant future ?

We hooked up with 'NJR' cause we went out and boozed it up with Matt NJR at the 'Hardcore At The Shore' Fest in New Jersey in the Summer of 2006 .. he put out a compilation that included some of the bands that played the fest .. so we were all chillin' together at the show and we pretty much agreed on a handshake at the show that we were gonna do our debut record with 'NJR' .. as far as other releases .. we're writing stuff right now for a second record .. and we're talking about putting out a 7 inch within the next few months.

Going back , when and why did Caught In A trap form ? And where'd the name of the band come from ?

Well the band is named after the first line of the Elvis song "Suspicious Minds" , this current version of the band formed in late 2005 , there was another version of CIAT for about a year before I joined the band .. they were more of a Thrash band .. same drummer , but our current guitar player , Paulie , was the singer .. and there was 3 other dudes in the band. When that band broke up .. Jay and Paulie asked me to join and we kept their old band name cause they still had a bunch of boxes of CIAT t-shirts .. haha why let all that merch go to waste !!

Whose in the band and what do they do ? Has this always been the line up or has there been a few changes along the way ?

Fie - Vocals , Paulie - Guitar , Jay - Drums and 6Pack Jon - Bass. We've had this line up for a while now , this is the line up that recorded the record and we've all become very tight both musically and personally .. we pretty much hang out together all the time so I don't see any line up changes in the future .. as far as former members go you had Matty , Sammy , and James in the original incarnation of the band and when I first joined the band we had Sid playing Bass .. he went on to join Sworn Enemy and 6Pack replaced him.

Had any of you been involved in bands before CIAT ?

I (Fie) was in a shitload of bands growing up but I mostly played bass or guitar , not as a frontman .. most recently , right before CIAT , I had played bass for State Of Disgrace .. Jay and Paulie have been playing together for a bunch of years , they played together in Eyes Of Hate and One In The Same to name a few .. Jay also played for The MUGS .. Jonny played in Throwdown NYC (Not the Throwdown that's around now) in the mid 90's and also played with 5 Minute Major for a while ..

What bands do you listen to and which ones would you say have played a major part in influencing you / your music ?

I'd say we are influenced by most of the Hardcore that was going down in the late 80's and early 90's here in NYC .. bands like Warzone , SOIA , AF , Murphy's Law , Sheer Terror .. pretty much the staples of the NYHC scene .. those are the bands that influenced us the most .. as far as bands I currently listen to , I mostly listen to bands that we are friends with , bands who we play with all the time .. Reason Enough , Olde York , This Means War , Razorblade Handgrenade , All As One , Everyday Dollars , The Offenders NJ ... the list goes on and on ..

Who writes the lyric's ? And where do the idea's for them come from ? Do they find it easy to write new material ?

I wrote the lyric's to about 11 of the 14 songs .. Paulie wrote the others .. we pretty much write about what we see going on around us , whether it be on a small neighbourhood level or a wide world stage .. the lyric's are straight forward , there's no real hidden messages , we say what we mean , mean what we say kinda thing , so they come pretty easy ..

Have you got a favourite CIAT song or one that you're proud of writing ?

My personal favourite is "Nothing's Free" , when we play that one I feel like we hit a nerve with the kids in the crowd .. living in NYC isn't always's easy , but you feel a pride within yourself for going through the struggle and surviving here .. and through that struggle you find yourself in this love/hate relationship with this city .. so it's kinda my 'love song' to NYC and it's definatley the only 'love song' we play haha.



Do you play show's on a regular basis ? And do you get to play outta NY much ?

Right now we play at least once a week in the NYC and surrounding areas .. we are planning on hitting the road a bit in Fall '07 .. and after that we'll see where life takes us.

Has there been a favourite show so far ? If so which one and why ?

We had a record release BBQ at this joint 'The Wreckroom' in April , 13 bands (all personal friends of ours) , a ton of food .. it was really an amazing day for us .. the kids came out and danced hard from the first band till the last .. we had A LOT of food and beers for the bands and the kids there .. and it felt more like a family re-union than a show .. it was definatley the most memorable show we've played so far .. kids were going NUTS .. diving off anything that they could climb , and there were NO fights .. at the end of the day we all walked outta there bruised and bloody with smiles on our faces.

Have you got a favourite venue ? And if I came to your neck of the woods where's the best place to catch a show and have a beer ?

Well , we love that joint 'The Wreckroom' , and there's also other quality shows going on at the 'Pyramid' in Manhattan .. they brought back Sunday matinee's there .. which NYC really needed after 'CBGBs' closed .. Also 'Finn's Pub' on Long Island ALWAYS has good shows .. but we'll play anywhere .. we don't give a fuck.

If you were to put on a show and had to have 10 bands on the bill who would you have and why ?

We put on many a show with that many bands and the only thing we care about is our friends and the kids having a good

time .. we have a family of bands going in NYC .. and any combination of the bands is cool with us .. I mean we love to play with the 'big dogs' but we have whether we play in front of 5 or 500 people .. I could list 10 bands but I'd have to leave too many great bands out ..

When did you first get into Hardcore , Punk etc .. and what got you into it ?

I've ben into Hardcore since my early teens .. when I was a kid , I was always's looking for something that pushed shit to that next level .. I heard some Hardcore and Punk bands and I was into it , but it wasn't till I went to my first show .. I walked in and was like "What the fuck is this ?????", it was crazy , the kids were bouncing off the walls .. I been hooked since then. I talk to my band mates and they all have similar stories .. once you're hooked .. that's it .. you're in for life ! **And what does it mean to you , to be involved and part of it all ? Can you ever see a time when you're not into Hardcore ?** I've stepped out of it for one period in my life .. when I was in the apprentice stage of tattooing , I didn't have the time to go to shows or play in a band since I was so busy learning everything that went along with tattooing .. but I KNEW for a fact that once I become more comfortable with my new job I'd be right back at the shows .. I didn't figure on playing in a band again but this shit sucks you in .. it's like you can't help it .. it's like a fuckin' curse haha .. I see cats like Tommy Ratt whose been there pretty much since day one and he's still at the shows .. and you can't have anything but respect for a guy like that .. I feel like that even if I wanted to stay away I couldn't ..

How would you say the Hardcore scene / music has changed since you first got into it ? And what would you say are the best and worst things about it currently ?

The more things change , the more things stay the same .. it's always gonna have it's high and low points but through it all it still hasn't gone away .. on any given day , there's a kid somewhere listening to Bad Brains or Warzone for the first time and he'll get hooked just like the rest of us poor bastards ... all the drama and beef and trends throughout the year's haven't killed it .. I can't see it going away ...

What do you all do outside of the band , work , interest's etc .. ?

I'm a tattooist as I said before , Jon teaches security classes , Jay does flooring and Paulie's an air conditioning mechanic and we all have a special interest in BBQing .. we're experts .. beer and BBQ specialist's ..

Have you got any plans to come over to Europe ?

We'd LOVE to ... you payin ?? hahaha

What's next for CIAT ?

We're gonna hit the road and promote this new record and just go out and have as much fun as possible .. and we're gonna keep writing material for future releases .. we're also gonna have videos for "Nothing's Free" and "Driven" in the near future.

All time top 10 ?

I can only speak for myself .. in no particular order .. Warzone , Sick Of It All , NWA , Murphy's Law , Minor Threat , Bad Brains , Public Enemy , early Biohazard , Madball , Beastie Boys .. but Johnny Cash is my all time favourite ..

Any messages ?

Not really man .. just thanks for the interview .. and check us out if you like traditional , fast , loud NYHC ..

www.myspace.com/caughtinatrapp ... or caughtinatrapp.com



Cheers to Fie for doing the interview . much appreciated bro ! All the best for the future and look forward to hearing more of you guy's in the not too distant future .. if you ain't heard their new CD yet folks , make the effort .. !!!!!!!



Well Mister Fab asked me if I'd be interested in hearing and reviewing Quartier Libre's CD and I said yep send it along , well after I heard it I felt I just had to get back in touch and ask if they'd be up for an interview .. good guy that he is Mister Fab said they'd be happy to answer some questions , so off went some questions and here's the answers

So when did Quartier Libre form and why ? And where did the name of the band come from ? What does it mean in English ?

Quartier Libre formed in May 2004. At the beginning of that year we played the last show of my first Punk/Oi! band called Spunka with a Ska/Punk band called Skarat-B , it was their last show as well. I was very disappointed by the end of the band so I decided to create my own project , I spoke about this with old Spunka and Skarat-B members and I formed Quartier Libre with them. The name Quartier Libre came from a song by the cult French band LSD , I made some suggestions to the rest of the band members and we were unanimous that this would be the bands name. In English it means 'Free Time' , it's the free time given to the soldiers when they have leave and all those kind of things. We all have jobs and families and when we play with Quartier Libre it's our free time. Our name could also be translated as 'Free Quarter'.

What's the line up and who does what ? Has it changed much since you formed ? I notice that you have 2 singers why's that ? Have you always had 2 singers ?

We have 2 guitarists , Booz and Guidaube , Yoann the bass player , a drummer Niko and 2 singers Kev and Mister Fab (who is very happy to answer your questions !!!). The line up has changed a little bit. Our first guitarist , Brice , left us at the end of 2004 because he had a baby , he plays with a little Rock band in our area now and is ready to play with QL if we need any help. At that time Guidaube was learning to play guitar with his brother Booz and we decided to give him a go .. and since then he's been our guitarist. When he first formed we had a saxophonist , you can hear him on the album , we were waiting for him at a gig with Deadline in the East of France in May 2006 ... and we are still waiting for him haha !!! The last change in line up was our bass player , Jerome left us after a show in Luxembourg in May 2007 and came back to France on foot !! Yoann , who plays bass now , was guitarist for a little Ska/Punk band and had played guitar at some of our shows when Booz was absent. I think it's more dynamic to play with 2 singers , I have known Kev for more than 15 years and I know him as well he knows me , it's very important when we play live to use this complicity for singing and moving about on stage. Yes , we were singing together with Spunka and as soon as I decided to form my own band I had to have Kev in the band. Infact , we don't have 2 singers but rather 2 half singers haha !!!

Have any of you been in bands before Quartier Libre ?

Booz and Niko were playing together for 10 years with Bad Taste and Skarat-B , local Punk and Ska/Punk bands. Yoann was playing with a little Ska/Punk band called Issue De Secours for a year. Kev and I were singing together in Spunka with all the ex-QL members. Before that Kev was singing with a band called Happy Hours who played in Southampton a few years ago. Only Guidaube hasn't been a musician before playing with us , but obviously it's not a problem for him.

What bands do you listen to and which would you say have influenced your music the most ?

We listen to lots of bands and it depends on the period , for example at the moment we listen to bands like Deadline , Inner Terrestrials and Cock Sparrer. If we must name some of the bands that have influenced our music then we'd say The Clash , The Specials and some French bands like LSD , Skarface , Les Rats , Happy Kolo and Les Sheriff.

What kind of things do you sing about ?

Our songs speak about what happens in life. We sing about gigs , friends , alcohol , our town , our country , the economic situation , cops ... we sing about a lot of things.

Does anyone in particular write the lyrics or do you all have a say ? Where do the ideas for lyrics come from ?

We all have a say in the lyrics. On the first album I wrote most of the lyrics because I probably had more inspiration than the other members. Now , I have less time than I had and they have more inspiration , it's better !! And we have some friends who write lyrics for us , which is a good thing too .. only if we think and like what we sing. The ideas come from

everyday life and what happens around us. We like to have funny lyrics , for example about parties or drinking with friends but we also have some lyrics that are more personal , and topics like the earth , poverty and unemployment.

Have you got a favourite Quartier Libre song or one that you're particularly proud of ?

Personally , I am particularly proud of "Polska" because it was the first 'personal' song of QL. I thought it up when I was in Poland from where my father came from. It's a great pleasure for us to play this song and the crowd like it so we are very proud of it.

Do you come up with new songs fairly regularly ? And do you play any covers ?

Because of our respective jobs , we only play once a week and as we really like to play live , it's very difficult for us to create new material regularly. At rehearsals we prefer to prepare for the shows that are coming up , and we sometimes like to stay with our families so we only have old songs. Yes and we like to play covers of bands we listened to when we were young. We play covers of 3 French bands , "Tulaviok" (which is on the CD) , "Zabriskie Point" (we hope to put on a new LP) and "Molodoi".



You've played a few shows , is that something you enjoy ? Whats a typical QL show like ?

Yes of course , as I said before , we really like to play live , we like to meet people and the stage is like our house !! A typical show is like a big party. We like to have fun , making lots of jokes , drinking lots of beer and spending the free time meeting people and listening to new bands.

Do you have a good interaction with the crowd ? Whats the crowd like , a good mix of Punks and Skins ... ?

Yes , I think so. Our aim when we play is to have fun and for the crowd to enjoy themselves. We don't play to preach to people , telling them what to do or not to do .. and I think they like that. In France , Skinheads listen to 60's Ska or Oi! and Punks like pure Punk. We have some Skinheads , more Punks and more Rock 'n' Roll girls ... and we like it. We have people who like our Rock 'n' Roll spirit even if they don't listen to our type of music. In foreign countries more Skinheads come to see us and they like what we play.

You've played outside of France a few times how was that ? Which country did you enjoy playing the most ? What countries that you haven't been to yet would you most like to play ?

These experiences were fantastic. It was a very good time for all the QL members. We met lots of different people , seeing new countries and different cultures. The crowd enjoyed coming to our gigs and dancing. All the band really , really like to take the car to travel abroad , we like to be together. All the countries were good places to play. Personally I enjoyed playing in Poland , because playing the song "Polska" in my Fathers country was very exciting. We met friends like Derkovbois in Hungary , Oli and Diana from 'Randale Records' in Germany , Wallon Oi! Crew in Belgium .. in no way could we say any country was bad for us. I say it very loudly .. WE WANT TO PLAY IN ENGLAND !!!! It's the country of all the music we listen to. And we want to see if Herve from Deadline is right when he says the weather is better in London than in Marseille hahaha ! Playing in England is the only way to meet you Sean and we would be very happy of it !

What bands that you've played with have impressed or disappointed you the most ? And are there any bands that you haven't played with yet but would like to ?

Without a doubt Deadline impressed us the most because of their style , loud and fast , they have very good musicians and Liz's voice has got a special touch. And they are very friendly and serious , for us Deadline are the best. As for the worst , there is only one French band who we can't play with because of their lack of respect. I won't mention the name

because I don't want to advertise this band ! Bands we'd like to play with .. The Clash , The Specials , Cock Sparrer , Rancid .. if we want to be more serious we could quickly say Scrapy , LSD , Skarface .. and the list goes on. I thought your album "L'Espoir Fait Vivre" was a really good listen , with really catchy tunes , what did you think of the outcome of it and what kind of feedback have you had on it ?

Thankyou very much !! We were very happy with the final result of this album for the sound and the design. The feedback has been very good too. Lots of people say they like our album , ask for an interview or come to see us play live , we are very proud of it ! This disc was produced in collaboration with 'Hyena Records' a little Punk label with only limited means that's why the distribution of this production was very limited. It's the only bad thing about it for us. But we have to thank this label because they were the only one who wanted to help us.

Have you released anything else ? Are there any releases on the horizon ?

No , this album is the only production at the moment. We have got some projects in the pipeline .. a split EP with the French Ska band Less Kro and we are talking about a split CD , live in Luxembourg , for an Anti Fascist label. We have some compilations wanting QL songs and we're okay with that , as you say in English .. wait and see !!

Where can people get hold of your merchandise / releases ?

You can find information on our website <http://perso.orange.fr/quartier-libre> or by sending us an email to quartier-libre@orange.fr or by post - Muzyka , B.P. 10104 , 08204 SEDAN cedex , France . The last option is to see us live - or to make us play live haha !

Whats your opinion on the French Punk/Oi/Ska/HC scenes at the moment ? Is it a united scene would you say ?

There are a lot of good bands playing in France at the moment , maybe due to the fact that it's more difficult to play. It's definatley more united than in the past 5 years for sure !! There was so much politics in the scne that it was very difficult to play without problems. Today it seems to be a little bit better.

What French bands around at the moment would you say are worth checking out ?

We have some friends who have been playing great Punk Rock for 10 years , Punch Chaos. For a Ska/Punk style listen to Happy Kolo , for Punk/Oi! .. Cortege , if you want Rocksteady listen to No Evening Dress and don't forget the legendary French band LSD , La Souris Deglinguee.

Whats next for Quartier Libre ?

Sleeping , seeing our drummer get married and writing new songs for our fans.

All time top 10 ?

No songs because I listen to many different things but I will try to make a top 10 for Quartier Libre ...

1) The Clash 2) The Specials 3) LSD 4) Les Rats 5) Happy Kolo 6) NOFX 7) Deadline 8) Skarface 9) Sex Pistols 10) Les Sheriff.

Any messages ?

Thankyou very much Sean for the very good interview and for what you do. Writing a fanzine , having a club or a label is as important as playing for the scene. If you want more information or you want us to play don't hesitate to contact us , it would be a great pleasure for QL members. Have fun !!!!

Well cheers to Mister Fab for the interview , nice one and much appreciated mate ! I hope everything goes well for you and Quartier Libre and can't wait for more releases !!! and hopefully to see you play over here in England someday soon !!





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THE FRAKAS

The Frakas were a new name to me when they got in contact about an interview .. so I checked their My Space page out and liking what I saw got back to 'em with some questions ... so here goes folks ...

So , when and why did The Frakas form ? And where'd the name of the band come from ?

The music scene in Gainesville had a complete lack of Street / Hardcore Punk so we decided to bring it to the town . Thesaurus ... Fracas is a synonym of riot. But a Metal band had Fracas as a name so we changed the c to a k and we got The Frakas.

What's the line up and who does what ? Have any of you been in bands before ?

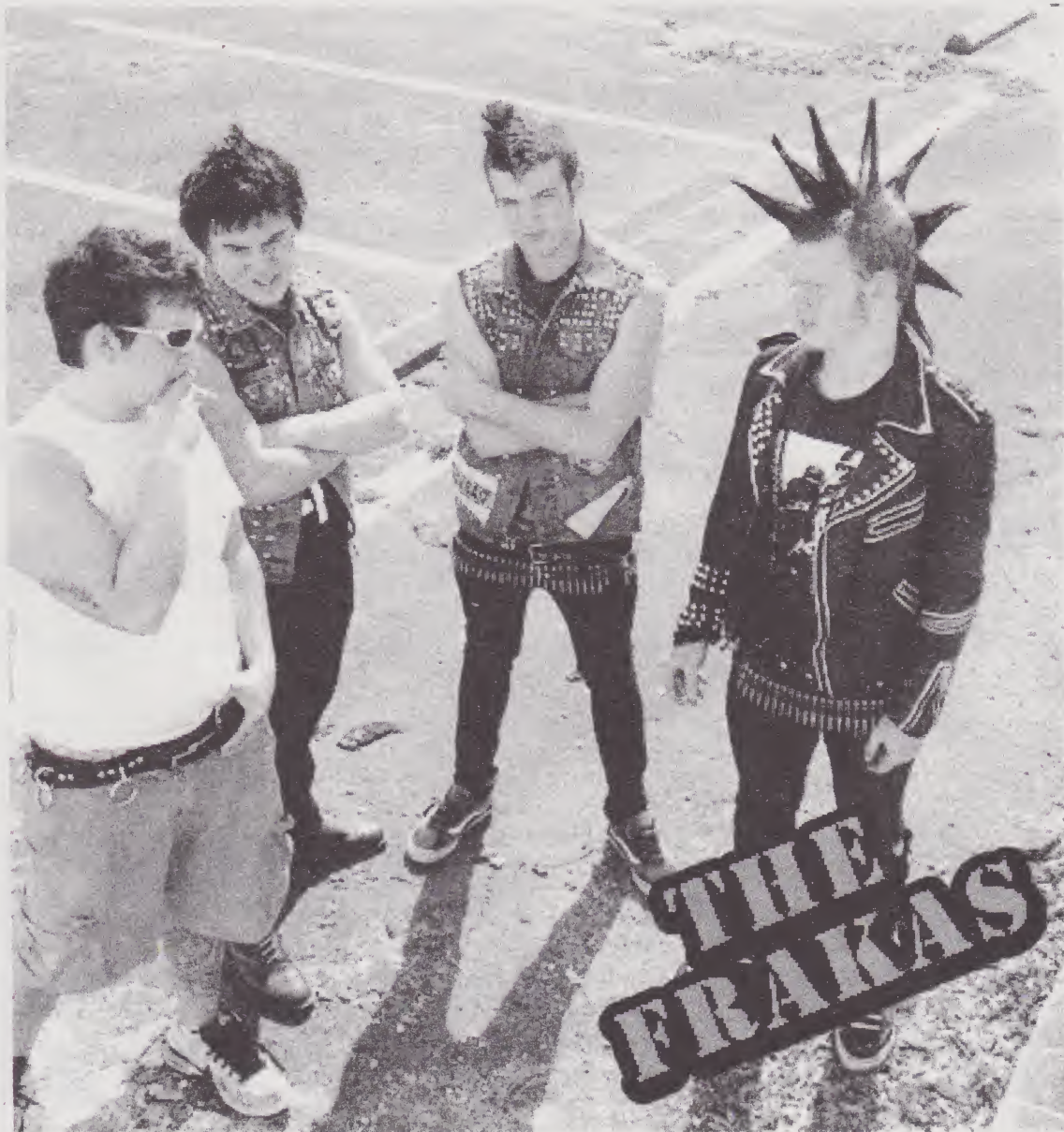
The line up is Chris – Vocals , Neil – drums , Ian – Bass and Josh – Guitar. During a break up another band that Chris was already in called Annihilation Squad adopted Neil. As a matter of fact that's where our songs "Sick" and "Torn Apart" come from.

You've had a few line up changes along the way is the current one a settled one ?

We started off with a different drummer named Mike , who moved to vocals , then before our first show we kicked him out for lack of common sense and dedication to the scene. After that we kicked Chris out for a while and had another bassist named Alex , but he wasn't reliable so we took Chris back after a short period of time. Then as far as line up , recently Chris moved to vocals full time and Ian to bass.

What bands do you listen to and which would you say have influenced you/your music the most ?

Ian is more into oi! and early Street bands like Blitz , Oi Polloi , The Business , Subhumans , Crass , The Adolescents , Black Flag , The Exploited and The Casualties. Neil likes more modern Punk such as Career Soldiers , early Monster Squad , A Global Threat and some heavier sounds like Chaotic Alliance. Chris is also more into Career Soldiers , Monster Squad , The Unseen , Chaotic Alliance , Discharge and Municipal Waste. Josh Likes bands like Code 13 , Cro-Mags , Final Conflict , Wednesday Night hero's , Extreme Noise terror , Blood For Blood , Abrasive Wheels and Disclose.



How would you describe your music ? Would you say you sound like any band in particular or have you got your own sound ?
Intense ! Our sound is pretty much all our own , our own sound changes a lot. You can listen to our music and find similarities to just about any kind of Punk you can think of , well not just Punk , any kind of music.

What kind of things do you sing about ? Who writes the lyric's and where do their idea's come from ?

Political issues , intense stories and personal conflicts.

Have you got a favourite Frakas song ? How would you say your newer material compares to when you first started out ?

No , as a band we don't really like any one song. Our new material is similar to our old material , but way more complex. In the beginning we used to write 3 songs in a day and just bang them out to take up time at our shows. But as a band we have put a lot more time into our new music , it's coming out with a better sound. We are really trying to make our music the best it can be for the new EP coming out.

When did you get into Punk/Oil etc .. and how ?

Ian got into Punk through a friend when he was in grade school , started off with more poppy bands and got more into it through time. Josh had his older brothers showing him music straight outta the womb. Neil was more into Metal , but Ian and the same guy that got him into Punk slowly weened him onto Punk. Chris grew up on Hair Metal , then when he moved to Gainesville he met Josh and got into Punk through him.

Do you play shows regularly ? And do you play outta town / state a lot ?

Yeah we try to play shows as much as possible , not too much in Gainesville due to a weak scene. But we try to play as much as possible out of town.

Has there been a favourite show so far ? If so , which one and why ?

Actually one of our most recent shows has become our favourite ... the show wasn't our style from the start , a lot of Hardcore bands , Folk Punk bullshit bands like Against Me! And an Emo band. The show had so much bad energy flying around , it was amazing and once we got on stage , 30 seconds into our first song , someone .. broke a light box and the crowd erupted into a massive brawl. Seriously there was like 15 individual fights going on , it looked like it was out of an old Western movie when someone got caught cheating playing poker ! Flying chairs , broken beer bottles , shattered light boxes , it was nuts. After it got broke up , we finished our set with considerably less people in the venue. And the headlining band .. New Mexican Disaster Squad never showed up.

Have you released anything ? Or are there any plans to release anything ?

June 8th is our EP release here in Gainesville. We have been writing and working on the CD for about a year.

What's the scene like where you are ? Many bands , venues etc .. ?

Tons of venues , tons of shitty music that is overplayed and absolutely no real Punk. The post Hardcore scene here is bangin' , tons of horrible bands like Borealis and Lucabradi. Then there's Beard Punk. Fucking hell that genre needs to die ! It's all galloping snare beats and wailing. 'No Idea Records' is based out of Gainesville and their speciality is Beard Punk.

And what do you think about the US scene as a whole ? How would you like to see it go in the future ?

We all like the US scene but it seems like Monster Squad and The Havoc and other bands like them are starting to change their sound or break up. Also a lot of kids just getting into Punk don't seem to recognise their roots.

What do you think the best and worst things are about today's scene ?

The Punk scene is starting to drop the old image of being burned out , drunk , idiots. People like Mike Virus are starting to push intelligence into the scene. The worst things are kids that follow people like Jello Biafra to close. Bands like Anti-Flag seem to preach a little too much about what Punk should be. They are taking the fun out of Punk and making it only political.

What's next on the agenda for The Frakas ?

We have an EP release and a summer tour. Also we are looking to get picked up by a label. We all work jobs , but nothing serious. Our music is the most solid thing in our lives , considering we are all drop outs .. we would much rather sleep in a van on the road every night compared to waking up every morning to go to a dead end job.

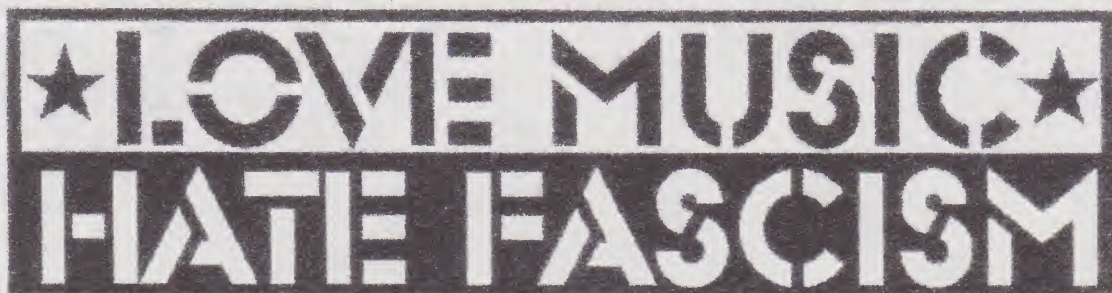
What's currently on your CD / record player ?

Neil has a lack of CD player but in his tape deck The Gipsy Kings , Poison or The Almond Brothers , Josh has Final Conflict's album "Ashes To Ashes" , Ian has Jimi Hendrix's live album or "Damaged" by Black Flag and Chris has in the "International Punx Unite" compilation.

Any messages ?

Check out our web page www.myspace.com/thefrakas for booking or merch. Or hit up our email address at Frakasbooking@yahoo.com . Cheers to the world's Punk scene , unite and fight !

Cheers to the lads of The Frakas for the interview , nice one lads. All the best for the future and good luck with the EP !!





Well I caught an earful of Jesse Jaymz' one man onslaught on his "One Man Crew" 7" and liking what I heard I thought I'd find out more about him So 'ere goes

Right then Jesse when and why did you begin your acoustic onslaught on the unsuspecting public ?
One day my boss pissed me off so I told him to fuck himself and I wrote "Smash Your Face" on the ride home. Then some of my friends let me play at shows in between the bands. Depending who you ask it took off or was all down hill from there , that was in 2003.

And why solo ? Why not start a band instead ?

Why start a band ? I don't need any help !

Have you been in bands before or do you currently play in a band ? Are you involved in any other projects apart from your solo one ?

I tried to turn my solo act into a cuntry band with a fiddle 'n' all , but they were afraid of me when I was drinking whisky. They played a few shows with me before they fled for their lives ! So that was that and I'm back to the one man crew.

Where do you get the ideas for your songs ? Does writing lyrics come easy or do you have to work at 'em ?

I get the ideas for the songs from my day to day life so the lyrics cum pretty easy just like my women !

Have you got a favourite song or one you're particularly proud of writing ?

"This Dick Ain't Gonna Suck itself" is a big hit in Oakland I'm proud of that.

You include humour in your songs as well as spitting out your hatred of , well most things really .. how would you describe your lyrics / music ?

I think of my lyrics as a butterfaced bitch. It ain't pretty but the vagina still works ! Pussy ain't got no face ! I gotta laugh to keep from killin'.

Do you get to play many shows ? How does your one man onslaught go down ?

I used to play a lot of shows and cause a lot of chaos and have fun and be really fucked up. I got in fights and got banned eventually from everywhere in NYC so I don't play as much anymore. Everything's so fucking tame these days which is why I did what I did in the first place.

What's a typical Jesse Jaymz show like ? And whats the most fucked up thing that's happened at one of your shows ?

Usually I'm way to drunk and piss everyone off. Most people are either laughing their asses off or are

totally offended or both. Someone always tries to disrespect me which never works out for them. And as I said I usually get banned from the pub. A couple of times I got kicked out before I played that's pretty fucked up , but in a nutshell it's a disastrous spectacle.

What would you say is the best thing about being a one man show rather than being in a band ?

I get all the money , glory , free beer and pussy , what more could you want !

You released a great 7" on 'United Riot Records' , how'd that come about ? How did you get hooked up with Dennis / 'United Riot' ?

I know Dennis from goin' to shows and nobody else had the balls to put this shit out so there you have it.

Have you released anything else ? Or is there anything else planned for release in the near future ?

I self released a couple of CD's a while ago as far as the future who knows.

What'd you think of the outcome of it and what kinda feedback have you had on it so far ?

I like the artwork and the coloured vinyl it looks cool. It's a good beer drinking record. I've gotten pretty good feedback some people don't get it but if everyone was cool we wouldn't need Jesse Jaymz anyway. Some people get it and can't get enough of it , I think it's great myself.

Whats your opinion on the current scene in NY ? There's some good bands coming outta there .. what bands do you currently like ?

Great bands in NY ? I'd rather be jerkin' off shit , got lame as fuck if you ask me.

And what do you think of the current state of Punk , Oi! and Hardcore in the states ?

Boring , boring , boring !

Whats the best and worst things about todays scene in your opinion ?

I'm the best everything and everyone else sucks my balls !

So what does a great Saturday night out have to have for Jesse Jaymz ?

Alcohol and a slice of pussy do it for me every time.

And as someone who comes across as angry .. what really pisses you off ?

Stoopid questions (Sean - I walked in to that fucker !)

Whats next for Jesse Jaymz ?

I think I'm gonna eat dinner.

Any messages ?

Buy my 7" it rules !

Well cheers to Jesse for answering the questions - nice one . All the best for the future and looking forward to hearing more of the one man onslaught !



SOUND OF THE SUBURBS

ACID TONGUE – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ACIDTONGUEFIFTE

Acid Tongue – “Anniversary” CD

Well I have to say straight away I really liked this disc. Top notch melodic Scot's Punk that really gets inside the head and as a bonus they supply you with lyrics and songs that have something valid to say. I'd say Aysh and the band have come up with their own individual sound and like I said the lyrics are socially aware and have something to say to the listener, I'd say that this is definatley worth kopping hold of. Of the 7 tracks on offer I'd say all are worth a listen altho' my personal faves were “Prohibit Scotland”, “Fuck Guns” and “Backbiter” .. and as a bonus theres a live disc as well, so that's an extra reason to get hold of it .. check 'em out.

DIRTY PUNK RECORDS – [HTTP://PERSO.WANADOO.FR/DIRTYPUNK/](http://PERSO.WANADOO.FR/DIRTYPUNK/)

Disturbance – “Shades Of Fear” CD (DPR 024)

First time I'd heard these Dutch Punksters and I have to admit to being mightily impressed with what I heard. 13 tracks of 80's inspired Punk is what you get and it's a real good listen, from fast 'n' furious to the more sedate Disturbance offer up quality Punk tunes that will have you bouncing round the room .. they remind me in places of bands like One Way System, fave tracks for me were “Won't Change Me”, “You Never Will”, “Fire Of Destruction” and “Parasites”, relevant topics .. relevant music .. excellent release and one I can recommend to all!

ANFIBIO RECORDS – WWW.ANFIBIORECORDS.TK

Razzaparte – “Il Drago E il Leone” CD (ANF015)

Ever since Flavio told me that Razzaparte were gonna be bringing out a new CD I'd been eager to get me grubby lil mitts on it and believe me when I say it was worth the wait as they've certainly come up with the goods in “Il Drago il Leone” .. 13 tracks of top quality Italian Streetpunk anthems that are a joy to listen to! I really liked their first Cd but this one surpasses that by far, its easy to see that Flavio and the band have worked really hard on this album and it shows. No favourite tracks as every track is a top tune and worth listening to.. a quality listen from a quality band on a quality label.. enuff said!

Mob – “Santi Senza Dio” CD (ANF016)

A new name on me this lot but a welcome one at that. Mob supply you with 9 solid, powerful Streetpunk tracks that really catch the ear. Gruff and gritty vocals combine well with the music and is reminiscent of some of the better 80's bands .. I would say that theres no particular stand out track as I enjoyed listening to the whole disc .. good stuff.

Tennentz Colombo – “Nelle Nostrevene” CD (ANF018)

I had a taster of this from the bands 2 track demo and tho' I liked that it really didn't do the album justice to be honest. 10 tracks of tuneful, catchy Italian Streetpunk that just goes to prove that Italy has a huge array of great bands at the moment and that Tennentz Colombo are one of them. Tennentz Colombo have their own sound and it really gets the foot tappin' .. solid working class anthems for working class people – definatley worth checking out!

S-Contro – “Kings Of Fools” CD (ANF019)

Powerful Italian Oi!/Streetpunk music from S-Contro .. real sing along anthem stuff (or hum along in my case haha), I'd caught this lot once before on the ‘Insurgence’ compilation “Class pride WorldWide” (think it was them anyway!) and I liked their track on that and this CD just went to strengthen my belief that they knock out great, quality tunes. As with the rest of Christian's releases this time round this is another great listen and deserves to be heard.

NO JOKE RECORDS – WWW.NOJOKERECORDS.NET

Caught In A Trap – “Rats Get Fat” CD

From the very first track on “Rats Get Fat” you know exactly what you're getting from the boys of Caught In A Trap – Straight up, in yer face, no messing NYHC .. no punches pulled, hard, fast, aggressive music and lyric's sung with heart and meaning, exactly how its meant to be!! Powerful music that contains working class and socially aware lyric's that vocalist Fie spit's out at the listener .. this is one fuckin' sick CD and I reckon everyone oughta give it a listen .. that simple!

CAPTAIN Oi! RECORDS – WWW.CAPTAINOI.COM

The Business – “Keep The Faith” CD (AHOY CD 292)

Great gatefold sleeve re-release of “Keep The Faith” and as always with the Captain's releases you get bonus tracks as well as the original album, this time round theres 3 making 16 tracks in all .. you all know who The Business are and what they're about so no explanations are needed but it does come with a neat booklet that has interesting reading and the lyrics as well – great stuff.

Discharge – “Hear Nothing See Nothing Say Nothing” CD (AHOY DPX 620)

A nice digi-pak release of the great Discharge album plus bonus tracks galore – 9 in all! It comes with a booklet that has the lyrics as well as sleeve notes written by Ian Glasper that make for interesting reading, so yer definatley getting yer moneys worth with this 'ere CD. Discharge were an important band that spawned a whole host of copycats that played in the same vein and had the same attitude and this CD shows you why, worth investing in.

Discharge – “Never Again” CD (AHOY DPX 621)

Another digi-pak release from the Captain and once again it's Stoke's Discharge – all the old classics are on here like “Protest & Survive”, “Hear Nothing See Nothing” and my personal Discharge fave “Decontrol” etc .. and again it comes with a booklet that has all the lyrics and sleeve notes by Ian Glasper and as with the previously reviewed disc its well worth a listen.

Discharge – “Why ?” CD (AHOY CD 619)

If you like your Punk hard and fast then you're being spoilt! A third Discharge release gets the Captains treatment. 10 trcaks plus a whopping 14, yep count 'em 14, bonus tracks! Again it comes with a natty booklet that has interesting reading inside supplied by Ian Glasper and the lyrics .. to be honest I didn't like this album as much as the previous two but it still has some good tracks on it and ain't too bad over all.

Deadline – “More To It Than Meets The Eye” CD (AHOY CD 295)

Excellent re-release from 'Captain Oi!', nice gatefold sleeve with a band write up from Herve that makes for interesting reading .. and as a bonus you get 4 extra tracks on top of the tracks from the album. It was a great release the first time round and with the packaging and bonus tracks it's just as good, if not better, this time around .. "More To It.." is definatley one for the collection people.

Channel 3 – "I've Got A Gun/After The Light Go Out" CD (AHOY CD 293)

I remember hearing Channel 3 many moons ago and couldn't wait to get this disc on the ol' player – what you get for your money is 2 albums on 1 disc plus 5 bonus tracks so theres a mighty 27 tracks in all ! This lot were signed to 'No Future' and if I remember rightly were there only foreign band – so they have to be good ! and they are believe me – these tracks sound as good now as they did back then, not outdated at all. This lot kept to their roots giving you catchy and full on Punk Rock and this disc is a must have as far as I'm concerned. Again it comes with a booklet giving you the lyrics and some good reading material by vocalist/guitarist Mike magrann, go get it !

D.O.A. – "Punk Rock Singles 1978-99" CD (AHOY CD 296)

A great release chronicling the single releases of D.O.A. – I think it's a really good thing that the Captain keeps releasing these kinda CDs as it gives a chance for the young 'uns to listen to what we were listening to back in the day and it also gives us a chance to listen to some of them hard to get hold of (or more like nigh on impossible to fuckin' get !) tunes that we've missed out on thru' the years ! D.O.A. supply you with some fuckin' great Punk and you'd be hard pressed to find better to be honest .. another good release from 'Captain Oi!'.

Toy Dolls – "Dig That Groove Baby" CD (AHOY DPX 622)

The Toy Dolls first album with shit loads of bonus tracks .. and I do mean shit loads !! There's 26 tracks on this disc which makes for a fun listen. All the album plus favourites like "Everybody Litterbug", "She Goes To Finos", "Deirdree's A Slag" .. are on 'ere as well and as ever it comes with a nice foldout sleeve and a booklet with the lyrics and sleeve notes written by mr. Glasper – definatley a great listen !

Toy Dolls – "A Far Out Disc" CD (AHOY DPX 623)

A digitally remastered version of The Dolls second album and as with the first it's a good listen, overall maybe its not as good but there's still some class dittys on here like "She Goes To Finos", "Florence Is Deaf(But There's No Need To Shout)", "My Girlfriends Dad's A Vicar" etc .. plus 4 bonus tracks in the form of "Deirdree's A Slag", "Rupert The Bear", "Nellie The Elephant" and "Fisticuffs In Frederick Street" and as always there's a neat booklet within it's saintly cover that has a write up from Ian Glasper and the lyrics to the album.

Toy Dolls – "Idle Gossip" CD (AHOY DPX 624)

And to top it all off the Captain have re-released the Dolls third album as well ! "Idle Gossip" contains 12 classic Dolls songs as well as 4 bonus tracks and for me is on a par with their excellent debut album. Pure Poppy type Punk at it's best and it see's Olga and co. in fine fettle and belting 'em like only they can. Comes with a tidy booklet that contains the lyrics and interesting sleeve notes – definatley one to check out people.

The Business – "The Truth The Whole Truth & Nothing But The Truth" CD (AHOY CD 294)

Fuck me this album is 10 years old yet to be honest it coulda come out yesterday as it still sounds that good and for me has to be the best Business full length yet .. powerful with a great production this album saw Fitz and the lads belt out class anthems like ""Death To Dance", "The Truth The Whole Truth & Nothing But The Truth", "Hardcore Hooligan", "One Common Voice" ... amongst others .. like I say this is the mutts nuts and has to be an essential listen and part of any CD collection !

The Dickies – "Second Coming" CD (AHOY CD 297)

To be honest I had only ever heard The Dickies a coupla times though I did like what I heard .. and this lil gem, from 1989, was a welcome listen .. melodic with that kinda tongue in cheek touch Punk that is really catchy and a good listen this is definatley worth a listen, musically it's a bit eclectic with varying sounds altho' I have to say I did like 'em all .. comes with 5 bonus tracks and a booklet that contains the lyrics and a write up on the album.. overall not too bad.

SUBCULTURE – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SUBCULTUREMT

Subculture – "Resist The Abuse" CD

A 6 track CD that I absolutely fuckin' loved listening to .. great music and great content what more could you want ?! Ray and the band have really come up trumps 'ere .. the disc is 6 songs about animal abuse and although I liked them all "McDollars" and "The Murder Of Richard Brown" were the best for me .. specially the latter, the lyrics to this song are really well thought out .. because as it turns out Richard brown is a pseudonym and it turns out that he is actually a rabbit .. cleverly written I think. Anyways the music is melodic Punk an catchy stuff, all in all this is a disc that's well worth checking out and supporting.

SIEMPRE CONTRA – WWW.SIEMPRE-CONTRA.DE

V/A – "Antifascist Action Worldwide" CD

Well Felix & 'Siempre Contra' have certainly come up with a corkin' release with this little gem, 26 tracks from around the globe, from bands such as Freiboiter, Los Fastidios, The Higgins, Derkovbois, Opcio K-95, The Oppressed, Brigada Flores Magon, Stage Bottles ..and many more besides ... all supporting the anti fascist cause ... this is a great listen, and definatley a cause worth supporting people. Enuff said really !

Camarada Kalashnikov – "La Forza De La Rao" CD

This is one of then bands that I'd heard of but never actually heard .. but I'm glad Felix sent this along and gave me the chance to check them out ! Camarada Kalashnikov are musically very sound supplying you with pacey, melodic Streetpunk tunes with excellent occasional use of the sax. After hearing "La Forza De La Rao" I have to say that this lot are definatley a band that I wanna hear a lot more of and I reckon that you will as well. Stand out tracks for me were "Demofarsa", "CK Hooligans" and the title track "La Forza De La Rao", but in all honesty every track is worth a listen.

The Higgins – "Fire In The City" CD

Now if you'd of told me that Tobi and the lads could of bettered their last CD I'd of seriously had my doubts .. but they've managed it !! 8 tracks of melodic Punk that's full of energy and meaning and passion. "Fire In The City" comes across as a little more powerful than their last CD but musically and lyrically it's still spot on and just as good, well better actually ! I thought this disc was a great listen and the only thing I could find wrong with it was there weren't enough tracks !!!

The Bayonets – "Our Fight" CD

This is a corker of an album, truly ! Miljan and co. have really come up with a great album in "Our Fight" .. nearly every track is a sing-a-long

anthem and musically The Bayonets play upbeat Streetpunk that really makes you wanna get up 'n' dance .. and you know where they stand politically so they're sussed as fuck to boot .. stand out tracks for me were "So Many Times", "5 Minuta", "Never Forget", "Plakati", "Rebel Forever" and "Our Fight" .. basically the whole album haha !!!! Definately worth checkin' out.

Guacamaya – "Un Altro Mondo" CD

A new name to me and to be honest looking at the cover I didn't really know what to expect but once I placed it in the trusty ol' player I heard solid melodic Punk that really got the foot tappin' .. another Italian band that are worth checking out people ! I liked the fact that they had a female and male vocalist (or at least appeared to) and it works really well .. top notch tunes with the best of the bunch being "Brucia", "Riot Song" and the brilliant "Gusto Amaro".

DONKEYCORE RECORDS – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/DONKEYCORERECORDS

V/A – "Small Towns And Shitty Cities" CD

30 track compilation with the likes of Hotwired, Verbal Warning, Offset, Bitch Slap Barbie, Misfit Society and countless others .. to be honest this is one of them compilations where you can pick out maybe 10 songs as listenable, a handful as a really good listen and the rest as shite ! For me the really good listens were Hotwired, Offset and Verbal warning with about 7 others as not too bad but the rest of 'em were dire.

OVERGROUND RECORDS – WWW.OVERGROUNDRECORDS.CO.UK

Nuclear Socketts – "Overload" CD

Bugger, this disc takes me back a few years !! The Socketts were around when I first got into it all and were one of the best things to come out of the shithole that is otherwise known as Kings Lynn ! The band supply you with raw, unadulterated Punk Rock that's great to listen to and also good to reminisce over with a pint or 3 ! The disc comes with a natty booklet style cover that has interesting reading material about the band supplied by Steve Harnett. It's really good to see a label that's releasing material by the smaller, less known – though just as important in the scheme of things – bands. Now then John .. you've released Reality and Nuclear Socketts CD's .. so how's about Section A and European Toys CD's then ???!

SUZUKI SMITH – WWW.SUZUKISMITH.NET

Suzuki Smith – "Amber Alert" CD

Top quality Punk tunes from Bostons Suzuki Smith .. upbeat, solid Punk Rock with sound well thought out lyrics and some great guitar work to boot. Suzuki Smith have their own distinctive sound though you can hear some of their influences in the music .. from the 15 tracks on offer I would have to say that "Kamikaze Irishmen", "Red Line To Nowhere", "Shred Of Reason", "Wife Beater" and "I Will" were my absolute favourites but they're all worth a listen, definately worth getting hold of.

ON THE RAG RECORDS – WWW.ONTHERAG.NET

V/A – "Put Some Pussy In Your Punk Volume 2" CD (OTR 006)

A bumper 31 track compilation from 'On The Rag Records' that features female bands or at least female fronted bands .. and it's a helluva listen believe me. There's some corking music on this disc, and a lot of it from bands I'd never heard of – shame on me is all I can say !! I really enjoyed listening to this second volume and I'd say there ain't one shit track on 'ere though obviously some tracks were better than others .. stand out bands for me were The Profits, IFG, Bitchcat, Female Chauvinist Pigs, The Front, Hymen Maneuver, The Secret Cervix .. with special mentions for All Or Nothing HC, Bruise Violet and Short Lived but like I say all the tracks are worth a listen .. so like the title says c'mon and .. put some pussy in your Punk !!!!

All Or Nothing / Gruk / Riot This / Bruise Violet – "Don't Fuck With Her" CD (OTR 007)

A CD featuring tracks from 4 different bands, first up are All Or Nothing who supply you with 4 fast, meaty, aggressive Hardcore tracks with venomous vocals spat out at you and for me were the best band outta the four, the second band were GRUK who supply you with vocals rammed down your throat at 100 mph with music to match and to be honest didn't do a lot for me on the whole, Riot This on the other hand serve up 5 excellent Punk tunes that really get the ol' foot tappin' and Bruise Violet supply 5 rough edged, raw tracks that certainly do the trick ! All in all this is a decent listen and well worth checking out, as are the interesting sleeve notes written by Renae Bryant of 'On The Rag' / All Or Nothing .. certainly makes you think .. good stuff by a label worth supporting.

ZERO YOUTH RECORDS – WWW.ZEROYOUTHRECORDS.COM

Brutally Frank – "One For The Road" CD (Zero 13)

Well this is another great release from Matt of 'Zero Youth', Brutally Frank are a band I'd heard a great deal about but never actually heard and everything I heard was justified .. and then some ! Anger driven Punkabilly that's full of energy and drive and every track really catches your attention and just grabs yer by the bollox and doesn't let go 'til the disc ends – this is some of the best stuff I've heard to be honest and I think you'd be hard pushed to find a better band around in this genre (along with Dead City Shakers) at the moment. Raw, angry, passionate and powerful but melodic and catchy "One For The Record" has it all .. yep it's that good methinks !

K.T.P – "Rockers" (Zero 14)

12 tracks of melodic sounding Punk that has a Rocky feel to it and throaty Rock type vocals to match, I have to say I didn't like this as much as the other stuff I've heard from 'Zero Youth' but that's not to say it's bad, perhaps it's cus the other stuff is so fuckin' good !! I weren't too keen on the vocals to be honest, but overall it weren't a bad listen to be fair.

QUARTIER LIBRE – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/QUARTIERLIBRESEDAN

Quartier Libre – "L'espoir Fait Vivre" CD (MR2)

A great listen from Mister Fab and the guys of Quartier Libre .. 11 tracks of French Punk/Ska and unlike some of the shite that people are trying to pass off under this type of music Quartier Libre have come up with the real deal .. from the first track "SDF" (my favourite) to the last "Jeunesse Marginalisee" this CD really gets the adrenalin pumping, you'll have these tunes stuck in your head for days ! catchy and melodic up beat music that will just wanna make you get up and dance – check 'em out !

SPIRIT OF 36 RECORDS – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/POURMACLASSE

Plakkaggio HC – “Il Nemico” CD

12 tracks of Italian Hardcore from Plakkaggio HC – and I really liked it. Raw, powerful, yet tuneful music that you can really get your teeth into and vocals that sound as tho' the singer had just ate his daily 6 pint glasses! This is definatley angry and passionate music for angry and passionate people. As 'Spirit Of 36 Records' put this out you know that the lyrics and reasoning behind them are sussed as fuck. And as a bonus for us non Italian speakers some of the tracks are sung in English and the lyrics are printed inside the cover – definatley one of the best CD's this issue!!

DETROIT NOISE RECORDS – WWW.DETROITNOISE.COM

Ratfinks – “Detroit Fuckers” CD

From the opening track you know exactly what you're in for with this CD .. real, no frills, no messing, in yer face music that packs a punch. And this lasts thru' to the 13th and final track! Gritty music with bollox that probably ain't the prettiest or nicest you've heard but it has bollox and sung with venom and draws you in.. I liked this album, you can hear the hate and the anger from Guy and the crew coming thru' loud and proud .. best tracks for me were “Detroit Fuckers”, “Emo Fucks”, “Real Boot Boys” and “I Wanna Riot” altho' like I say I enjoyed listening to the whole thing .. good stuff!

HARDCORETROOPER RECORDS – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/HARDCORETROOPERRECORDS

Tromatized Youth – “Nantes pride” CD (HXC04)

First time I'd heard French Hardcore and I gotta admit to being well impressed. Tromatized Youth bring forth to the table melodic, passionate and powerful Hardcore tunes that are a really good listen. Mehdi and the band really gel and have their own individual style altho' you can hear a few influences in there, I'm sure I even caught a little of S.O.D. in there, it's definatley got an edge to it and ain't the same ol' same ol' as some Hardcore is these days, definatley worth getting hold of folks.

Golden District – “Enter The District” CD (HXC06)

More French Hardcore and again I was well into it. Completely different style from Tromatized Youth but still, a style that works. Golden District come up with music that's ballsy, gutsy with a real social message that really gets across to the listener, take “Medical Segregation” which is about medical firms whose profits are more important to them than human lives .. stirring stuff. Golden District are a band that are certainly worth catching an earful of!

For The Real – “For The Real” CD (HXC05)

Ah another good listen from Mehdi at 'Hardcoretrooper' and yet another class Hardcore act from France .. this time in the form of For The Real. As with the previous 2 CD's I liked what I heard – hard, energetic and tuneful Hardcore that really jump outta the speakers and grab your attention! Definatley one to check out as far as I'm concerned..

ANGRY SCENE RECORDS – WWW.ANGRYSCENERECORDS.CO.UK

V/A – “Angry Scenes Volume 2” CD (ASR 005)

A 31 track compilation that's a bloody good listen to be honest. Disturbance kick off proceedings and really set the whole mood of the album with the upbeat Punk as fuck “Constable Cockney” then you have the likes of Drongos For Europe, Contempt, Eastfield, Demonic Upchucks, Hotwired, Dogshit Sandwich and so the list goes on .. a real good mix of Punk styles that all gel together to make one helluva album! All good listens for me and a compilation well worth investing in.

DO THE DOG RECORDS – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/DOTHEDOGMUSIC

Rebelation – “State Of The Union” CD (DOGCD28)

Put quite simply rebelation are one of the best Ska-Reggae bands around in the UK at the moment and “State Of the Union” just goes to compound this fact. 12 tracks of the sweetest Ska/Reggae sounds you're likely to hear anywhere .. and as a side note they come from Kings Lynn haha!! Who say's theres nothing in Lynn?!! This is definatley the best I've heard Rebelation and that's saying something cus I've rated 'em since I first ever heard 'em. This is a great listen and as far as I'm concerned this is a must have!

3 Minute Warning – “Tramps Jackpot” CD (DOGCD24)

Well 3 Minute Warning were a new name on me and one I'd like to hear a lot more of if I'm honest. They supply you with energetic music that has a real 2 Tone-ish/80's Ska feel about it with a bit of Punk thrown into the mix for good measure .. from the opening track you just wanna get up and dance and sing along to every track, really good stuff me thinks and another great release from Kev and 'Do The Dog'.

Skylar – “Skylar” CD (DOGCD23)

Yet another new name for me to conjur with, Skylar come up with a laid back reggae-ish type music with a poppy influence in places and although they do it well and it's not a bad listen it's not really my cuppa tea, saying that however I really liked “The Anti Life” and “All You Say”. For me the vocals didn't go with the music most of the time, not too bad but there's better to listen to.

Too Many Crooks – “Inside” CD (DOGCD26)

This see's 'Do The Dog' back on track .. Too Many Crooks are another band that gave me that 80's vibe, giving you 18 highly danceable tracks with the best of the bunch in my opinion being “Salvation”, “Part Time Girl”, “Tie Me Up”, “FBI” and “New Killer Ska”, the only track I didn't like was “Yesterday” which kinda reminded me of the weird stuff that geezer Jean Michel Jarre played for some reason! On the whole tho' “Inside” is a great listen and is definatley one for the collection.

Sadies Doll – “Sadies Doll” CD (DOGCD25)

This is a great disc! I played this quite a few times after I first heard it, over and over .. it's really catchy, melodic and up beat and believe me when I say once it's in the ol' CD player you'll be leaving it in and putting it on repeat!! You can hear quite a few influences in their music and they come together well, no stand out tracks as I enjoyed listening to them all. A band and a CD well worth checking out.

Rebelation – “Pounds & Pence” CD (DOGCD22)

A second helping from Lynn's own Rebelation, this time with a 6 track mini CD, this second offering just goes to enforce my earlier thoughts that they are truly one of the best Ska/Reggae bands on the circuit today. As with disc I reviewed earlier “Pounds & Pence” supplies you with some of the best sounds you're likely to hear – anywhere! The only thing wrong with this lil gem is that thereain't more tracks on it! Honestly

folks if you want honest to goodness music with that traditional Ska/Reggae feeling then invest in a disc by this bunch cus it don't get no better than this !

EPIDEMIC RECORDS – WWW.EPIDEMICRECORDS.CJB.NET

Milizia HC – “L’Inferno Dell Uguaglianza” CD

Italian Hardcore that gets the thumbs up from me ! 11 tracks of fast , furious Hardcore music with the vocalist spitting out lyrics angrily and speedily .. this is totally different from the hardcore I’m used to but it’s just as good. I really enjoyed listening to this disc and have no trouble telling Hardcore fans to check it out. This seems to be a joint release from various Italian labels but that’s neither here nor there really as it’s the music that counts and that’s top notch !

Vilification – “To My Worst Enemy” CD

Vilification are more or less in the same mould as Milizia HC and I like ‘em. They come across as slightly more powerful to me and maybe a little ‘darker’ if that’s the right word to use. You get a pullout sleeve that has all the lyrics printed inside it , seems to me that the Italians have some great Hardcore acts around at the moment and I’d definatley include Vilification in that as well .. check ‘em out.

Lucida Follia – “Oltre L’Orixxonte Degli Eventi” CD

This is a scorcher of a disc .. just a shame that it’s only 5 tracks long but hey ho you can’t have everything I suppose ! Again the music is raw , angry and powerful and is definatley worth a listen ..again the lyrics are printed on the inside of the sleeve – in English and Italian. This is a band that I look forward to hearing a lot more of !

The Smashrooms – “Rest In War” CD

Fuckin awesome release from Gabs and The Smashrooms .. 10 tracks of top notch Italian Hardcore that’s sung in English. Powerful , angry and aggressive as fuck music that was a joy to listen to .. no favourites on here as for me they were all well worth listening to. Good stuff and one to kop a hold of.

BACK TA BASICS – WWW.BACKTABASICS.MOONFRUIT.COM

V/A – “Down For The Core Part 3” CD (BTB #69)

The third instalment of this great series from ‘Back To Basics’ .. and part 3 see’s the great sounds continue ! 25 Ta Life , Skarhead , Northside Kings , Truth In Needles , Danny Diablo , Phoenix City Muggers , Murderers Row .. along with 23 other bands all contribute worthwhile tracks to this compilation .. and follows on from the previous 2 compilations in that you get quality tunes that are worth a listen .. gotta get I’d say !

BOUNTY HUNTERS – WWW.BOUNTYHUNTERS.FR

Bounty Hunters – Demo CD

Now I’ve always been a fan of French Punk and Oi! and after hearing Bounty Hunters that ain’t changed one bit. 7 tracks of tuneful Punk that seems to be ‘77 inspired .. as soon as the music starts yer feet start to move and it’s the sorta music that you just wanna sing along to. Really catchy and enthusiastic stuff .. and a band worth checking out people.

RAMBLE – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/RAMBLE3

Ramble – “Go For It” CD

5 tracks from Ramble that on the whole ain’t too bad but like a school report ... it could be better !! I have to say that for me the vocals didn’t seem to go with the music to well .. kinda like the singer trying to hard really but overall not too bad.

THE EXPLICITs – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/THEEXPLICITs

The Explicits – Demo 2007 CD

The Explicits provide you with 5 tracks of tight , energetic , power packed Punk coupled with strong , passionate vocals that really draw you in and just wanna make you bounce of the fuckin walls. Listening to this I’d say that The Explicits are a band to watch out for and that this demo is well worth a listen.

CORETEX RECORDS – WWW.CORETEX.TV

Schizma – “Hardcore Enemies” CD (MM44)

David of ‘Coretex’ informs me that Schizma are Polands oldest hardcore band and after hearing this disc I can see why they have lasted so long cos they produce quality , hard edged tunes with full on vocals that’s in yer face Hardcore and just gets you in the mood for the pit. As well as the 13 tracks you also get a bonus video clip of the lads in action singing the title track .. great release by ‘Coretex’ !

V/A – “Label Sampler” CD

14 tracks from some of the best bands on the label including OHL , Troopers , Styrian Bootboys , Schizma , Condition , Bust The Chain and loads more besides .. a great taster of what you can expect from the label and it’s bands .. quality music being the main apparent thing ! There was a few new names on me as well like Endrah and Alithia. A good mix of Punk , Hardcore and Metal and as well as the tracks you also get 2 trailers / videos can’t be bad eh ?!!!!

KNOCKOUT RECORDS – WWW.KNOCK-OUT.DE

The Porters – “Anywhere But Home” CD

Now I’d heard of The Porters before but never actually heard them so thanks to Mosh for sending this cos it’s a really good listen. From the 14 tracks on offer you’re listening to a wide range of sounds encompassing loads of musical styles but for me the one that really stands out is the Irish inspired Folk Punk that really works , from the faster more upbeat tunes to the slower more ballady type tracks. “Anywhere But Home” is a CD that belongs in everyones collection as far as I’m concerned.

POTENCIAL HARDCORE – WWW.NODO50.ORG/POTENCIALHC

The Bad Bloods – “The Brew Sessions” CD (PHC 134 CD)

13 tracks of catchy , hard edged and melodic Punk is what The Bad Bloods supply you with and it's a fuckin' good listen I can tell you. There's not one crap song on this album and they're all raw and have a kinda Bonecrusher – ish feeling to them , that hard edged and venomous Punk that Cali's finest do so well. And as with Bonecrusher , The Bad Bloods sing about social issues and what's going on around them and like I said they do it fuckin' well .. plus theres a great cover of Black Flag's "Wasted" to boot. "The Brew Sessions" is a CD that you just have to get hold of cos I don't think you'll be disappointed !

PEOPLE LIKE YOU RECORDS – WWW.PEOPLELIKEYOURECORDS.COM

Frontkick – "The Cause Of The Rebel" CD (Prison 137-2)

"The Cause Of The Rebel" shows you just how much Frontkick have progressed since their debut and is definatley their best release yet. Melodic music with a Rocky touch to it all 14 tracks are a worthwhile listen although for me "Blue Tainted Blood" , "Dead Uns" , "Light Up Your Throne" , "She's A Heartache" , "Back For Me" and "Off The Rails" were the stand outs .. all the tracks are guaranteed to get you moving and singing along and I have to say the guitar work is second to none .. good listen.

Far From Finished – "Living In The Fallout" CD (Prison 146-2)

First time I'd heard Far From Finished and I liked what I heard , catchy and upbeat they remind me in some ways of some of the MTV bands but with balls , meaning and spirit .. every track is a decent listen and each one is equally as catchy as the next – not a bad release and look forward to hearing more of 'em in the future.

The Peacocks – "Touch & Go" CD (Prison 143-2)

Now anyone who knows me will tell you that I likes me a bit of Psycho/Rocker Billy and when you combine that with a splash of Punk along with a foot tapping beat , even better ! And that's exactly what The Peacocks supply you with .. in abundance. 16 tarcks that are as catchy as fuck and just as danceable .. basically the full package folks .. good stuff.

Whiskey Rebels – "Create Or Die" CD (Prison 142-2)

Solid Streetpunk that's tuneful , energetic and catchy. This is the first time I'd caught an earful of this bunch and I wouldn't mind hearing more of 'em .. like Far From Finished they're the sorta band you could put on MTV , they have that catchiness but also have the raw and real Streetpunk feel about them unlike the shite that gets on the box .. be good for the kids to listen to summat like this I reckon .. good listen from start to finish.

Thee Merry Widows – "Revenge Served Cold" CD (Prison 132-2)

First time I'd heard Thee Merry Widows and have to say they're fuckin' good , this all female band provide you with a solid , melodic Psychobilly sound with a touch of Punk and a dose of Garage thrown in for good measure and the end result is a highly listenable disc. The music is tuneful with a real dark horror type feeling behind it and it's almost as if it's from a past era but with a modern sheen to it. This is one album that you gotta hear and Thee Merry Widows are definatley a band that I wanna hear a lot more of.

Broilers – "Vanitas Recordings" CD (prison 141-2)

Yet another good listen from 'People Like You' , Broilers bring you 19 , yep 19 , tracks of some great music that really gets yer attention. The band have fused and used a wide array of influences on this album and they all work and come across really well. The music itself still has that raw passion and edge to it but also summat extra that just adds to the overall sound.

The Generators – "The Great Divide" CD (Prison 144-2)

Despite having been around for the past 10 years and this being their 6th full length this is the first time I'd heard The Generators and I didn't think they were at all bad. The music's melodic and powerful , Punk with a Rocky edge to it and goes well with Doug's strong vocals. All in all it's 10 foot stomping tracks that are all a good listen tho' I do have to give a special mention to their cover of The Stones' classic "Paint It Black" which is fuckin' great !

The Generators – "Welcome To The End" CD (Prison 118-2)

To celebrate The Generators 10th anniversary and their involvement with 'People Like You' the nice people at the label have re-released this CD which apparently was the first to be released by the label. As with "Great Divide" it's a good listen from start to finish , catchy and melodic with that Rocky tinge to it though maybe not quite so evident as with the previously reviewed album. Still , all in all a top listen.

Heartbreak Engines – "One Hour Hero" CD (Prison 145-2)

Another new name to me and another one that I enjoyed listening to .. what Heartbreak Engines bring to the table is tuneful , full on Punk 'n' Roll , and with a double bass in the mix you also get a Psychobilly feel to the music as well , not a bad listen and to be honest it's a disc that's well worth a spin.

KEYSIDE STRIKE – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/KEYSIDESTRIKEHC

Keyside Strike – "Hit Me Again" CD (HCRO2D)

Stoney and co. provide you with solid , aggressive , top quality Hardcore / Punk from the North East. This is the first time I'd heard Keyside Strike and have to say I liked what I heard. They come across as a band who would be great to see live , they have that raw passion and energy that comes thru' on the disc so I can only imagine what they're like live ! All 10 tracks are a worthy listen but I must say that they do a fuckin' awesome cover of The Exploited's "Alternative" at the end of the disc , get yer shekels out people cos this is worth investing in !

SPIRAL ARCHIVE – WWW.SPIRALARCHIVE.COM

Isaws – "Burnt Offering" CD

Isaws are a band I'd never heard of before , apparently they formed around '77 but split during 1979.. and the '77 feeling really comes thru' on all 11 tracks of this disc. This ain't a bad listen on the whole with all the tracks being decent and like I say the '77 and DIY spirit is strongly evident on all of them. One track that stood out for me was "WHS" tho' like I said they're all a decent listen. Some of these lesser known bands from yesteryear deserve to be heard and on the whole I'd say isaws is one of them.

FTR – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/FIRSTTIMERIOT

FTR – Demo CD

4 track demo from First Time Riot and it's bloody good ! Fast paced , socially and politically charged , energetic Punk Rock is what FTR supply you with and they have raw , raucous , rebel rousing sound about them with real sing along anthems .. I definatley look forward to hearing

more of this lot and seeing 'em live as they come across as a band who'd be at their best live .. worth checking out this lot and so is this CD.

BULLDOG EMPIRE RECORDS – WWW.STREETPUNK.CZ

Disdainful – “Hated Proud & Disdainful” CD

Now for a first release this ain't fuckin' bad let me tell you ! If this is their first effort I can't wait to hear more of this lot .. Vlad , Peddy and the band unleash 10 tracks of melodic , rough vocaled and hard edged Skinhead Rock / Streetpunk (call it what you want !) that manages to grab your attention and keeps you focused on the music the whole way through this disc .. a wide range of subjects are touched on but for me the stand out tracks were “Football” , which has a real Rock 'n' Roll edge to it , “Pride Of Bohemia” , “Prague” , a real stirring song about the bands love of their native city Prague and “Zeros & Heroes” which is a real sing along anthem if ever I heard one ! But in all honesty all the tracks are a good listen .. fuckin' excellent and a worthy addition to anyones collection.

NECK RECORDS – WWW.MYSPACE.COM/NECKRECORDS

The Barons – Demo CD (Neck 011)

4 tracks of full on Streetpunk , just a shame it's only 4 tracks to be honest !! The Barons are a band that play down to earth , honest to goodness Punk with no pretensions and kinda reminds me of the old school Punk from the US , it has bollox but still manages to be musical and for me they're the kinda band you wanna go see live , have a beer to and have a fuckin' good time you know ?! .. this is good stuff folks and The barons are a band well worth checking out.

Alleged Bricks / The Barons – Split CD (Neck 014)

Well Alleged Bricks are a band I like and they provide you with 3 solid East Coast Streetpunk anthems , TJDC's voice angry and strong compliments the bands music so well and I liked all 3 contributions equally .. and then come The Barons with 4 equally good tracks .. totally different musical style but still anger driven vocals with shit hot music and some neat guitar work .. the two bands go well together and both go to making this a damn fine CD that's a good listen and well worth investing in.

UNITED RIOT RECORDS – WWW.UNITEDRIOTRECORDS.COM

Fed Up – “Lashing Out” 7” (URR-6)

Now I've been a fan of Fed Up's since I first heard 'em and this 3 track gem has just helped to enforce that ! Dennis F.U. and the fella's are still knocking out quality anger and hate filled Hardcore that gets the blood pumpin and the adrenalin flowing .. fuckin' great stuff !! Fed Up seem to get better and angrier with each new release and this is definatley some of the best stuff I've heard by 'em .. the title track “Lashing Out” and “Bitchslap” were my faves outta the 3 tho' “Hamburger Deluxe” weren't far behind .. mind you I ain't sure what a hamburger deluxe is !! This is NYHC loud and proud !!

KOI RECORDS – WWW.KOIRECORDS.COM

S.S.S.P. – 7” EP (Koi 007)

Fuck me this is good stuff folks !! 4 tracks of I suppose you could call it Hardcore Oi! , Hardcore music but with a hint of Oi! thrown into the mix .. and with attitude ! fuck this is a band I intend keeping a close eye on cos if this is their first release then man I can't wait for the next !! Well written lyrics and well played music .. doesn't get any better than that I reckon .. and as a bonus it comes on varying coloured vinyls , for me there was no faves as all 4 tracks were stand outs and after listening to this I am sitting here waiting for their forthcoming full length ...

DURTY MICK RECORDS – WWW.DURTYMICKRECORDS.COM

Foreign Legion – “Death Valley” CD

Marcus and the lads of the Legion have excelled themselves with this little treasure .. this is definatley the best I have heard Foreign Legion and for me is by far the best release of the band to date. The music is spot on and well played Punk and Marcus's vocals compliment it well .. I have no favourites as I really liked listening to all of the album , several times !! The only gripe is that I would of liked to see maybe a little booklet with the lyrics / some pics or something as an album of this calibre deserves a little extra !! Anyways that said the music is what it's about and you won't hear better than this .. get yer hands in yer pockets and buy the fucker !

Foreign Legion / Suburban Lockdown – Split 7”

Two tracks from each band .. live and loud .. just like they're meant to be heard !! Great production and sound this 7” split is a definite gotta get as far as I'm concerned .. The Legion supply “Where's Johnny Gone” and “Another Day” .. the best track on 'ere for me .. and Suburban Lockdown come up with “Rock 'n' Roll Heroes” and “Locked In” .. both good listens and overall a single that gives you an earful of quality Punk how it's meant to be heard.

Token Entry – “The Re-Issues” LP

Gotta be honest and say I'd never heard of this lot before .. but on reading the sleeve notes on this 'ere LP I find out they're an early NYHC band .. basically what you got here is two LP's on 1 double LP that's well packaged and comes on coloured vinyl .. and the music is fuckin' good I tell you !! Some right stormers on here .. I'd say “The Weight Of The World” LP was the better of the two although “Jaybird” was still a great listen .. melodic and full of energy this is straight up NYHC .. and with people like Ray Cappo of Youth Of Today Civ of Gorilla Biscuits and Bryan Kienlen of The Bouncing Souls heaping praise on 'em let's face it they must be good !!

VINYL JUNKIES – WWW.VINYL-JUNKIES-REC.DE

Strongbow – “Terminal Life” CD (VJ11)

And yet another new name to me .. and yet again a name that I wouldn't mind hearing more of ! Powerful Street Rock music that is really catchy and foot tappin' stuff and a vocalist who can fuckin' sing .. I think they're German (tho I wouldn't swear to it !!) but all the tracks are sung in English .. and sung well I may add. There's even bagpipes on 'ere .. an instrument that I fuckin hate , but even I have to admit that they go with the music on “Let Our Enemies Know” and blend in well and help make it one of the best songs on the disc !! Well thought out lyrics , well played music and well sung .. stirring stuff and a CD to get hold of I'd say !

Die Habertzettls – “Plus Minus” CD (VJ13)

These lot might have an unpronouncable name but one things for sure .. they can play good fuckin' music ! Germany is producing some great

bands and music at the moment and Die Haberzettls just go towards proving this point. Shame there's only 8 tracks on 'ere as I would of liked to hear more from this lot ... solid , tuneful and foot tappin' Street music that really catches the ear .. and it's like this all through the disc , excellent stuff throughout !

M.A.M.A. – "Rock As Fuck" CD (VJ14/MR048)

M.A.M.A. stands for Me And My Asshole which is a good selling point in my book haha .. anyways what you get is 16 tracks of catchy , pacey Streetpunk that's not to dis-similar to the previous 2 reviewed CD's .. slightly more Punky with throaty vocals but still a bloody good listen and once again German .. damn they've got some fuckin' good bands !! Overall I'd say it's not quite as good as the previously 2 reviewed discs but still a good listen nevertheless.

HALB 7 RECORDS – WWW.HALB7RECORDS.DE

Full Speed Ahead – "All In Me" CD (HALB 45-2 / VJ 15)

Leipzig's finest are back with a new offering and they're more powerful than ever. The band have added a second guitarist which shows in the power and aggression of the music .. the music and lyrics are pretty diverse but they all come across well , and they seem happy playing slow or fast tunes. In parts they sort of remind me of some of their American counterparts but on the whole I would say that they have developed their own style and for it works , and works well at that. All in all a good album , with aggressive music and great vocals.

Thee Flanders – "Graverobbing" CD (HALB 43-2)

Now this is different , good but different !! A double CD offering from Thee Flanders with the "Graverobbing" CD being full of cover versions and I tell you it's fuckin' superb !! They cover the likes of Demented Are Go – "Pervy In The Park" , Mad Sin's "Fleischzug" , The Meteors "The Crazyed" , "Transylvanian Express" by Batmobile .. as well as 80's tracks like "Master & Servant" by Depeche Mode and Yazoo's "Only You" .. and stuff like Blondie's "Maria" , "White Wedding" by Billy Idol and even an Elvis cover .. fuck I tell you "White Wedding" and "Master & Servant" sound better than the fuckin originals when sung and played Psychobilly style !! The second disc "Freakshow" is a visual feast of Psychobilly mayhem featuring Thee Flanders live at various festivals belting out top tunes as well as proper videos and interview .. all with crystal clear vision and sound quality .. you're certainly being spoilt with this one ! All in all , a great release and one well worth shelling out yer hard earned dosh for !!

NAILL WALL RECORDS – WWW.FEARCITYOI.COM

Fear City – "Our Way Of Life" CD (NW012)

I'd caught these guys on a compilation and liked what I heard so was looking forward to hearing this ... 14 tracks of South Side Oi! and it's a really good listen , if you like yer Oi! aggressive and powerful with catchy tunes then this is for you. Fear City are one of the better US of Oi! bands in my opinion .. with sing along anthems like the excellent "One More Day" , "Old Glory" , "FCS Anthem" .. fuck it , actually I liked all the tracks on this album !! But I have to give a mention to "Beer Goggles" cos we've all had them on a few times haha ! All in all "Our Way Of Life" is worth investing in people ..

NO FRONT TEETH RECORDS – WWW.NOFRONTTEETH.CO.UK

Tatort Toilet – "Heil Hightech" CD (NFT034)

A new name on me , and a weird one at that Tatort Toilet ?! ... anyway's name aside this disc ain't a bad listen to be honest , the music's solid and musical Punk Rock and is toe tapping stuff , really catchy. For me their music has a late 70's feeling to it and they kinda have a Ramones sound and energy about 'em , I enjoyed listening to this and would say that most people who listen to it would as well.

V/A – "Global Hostility" CD (NFTR003)

A 25 track compilation from those nice people at 'No Front Teeth' ..and it's a good listen ! Bands from all over the world contribute to this disc so you have differing languages and musical styles galore and it works well .. Russia's The Pauki kick off proceedings with a catchy little Punk ditty and kinda sets the tone for the whole album really .. there's bands from the Uk , Japan , Russia , Uruguay , Belgium , Brazil and so many more so this is a real global compilation and to be fair apart from about 2/3 tracks all provide you with a decent listen .. well worth getting hold of.

V/A – "Dancehall Troops Volume 1" CD (NFTR017)

Another compilation from 'NFT' and again it's one that's a decent listen .. 30 tracks from the likes of Broken Bottles , Bonecrusher , The Bombshells , Curb Slappys , Dead End Kids , Smogtown .. and as with "Global Hostility" the vast majority tracks on 'ere are a good listen and once again I have no problem in saying check it out people , good stuff !

Situations – "Pressure Is A Pleasure" CD

German band that sing in both German and English and ain't half bad , they provide 14 tracks of catchy , foot tappin' Punk that has an early Punk sound about it , for me the whole album was an enjoyable listen although at times I have to say that the vocals grated on me a bit but on the whole It was a decent CD.

Deadones USA – "There Is No Vacation" CD (NFTR014)

14 tracks of fast , upbeat and catchy Punk that really catches yer attention and gets the adrenalin pumping .. I liked all the tracks on this disc altho for me the stand outs were "Fucking Stupid" , "How Do You Say Goodbye ?" , "Third World USA" (A real sing along anthem this one I reckon) and "Never Had" .. all in all "There Is No Vacation" is a bloody good listen and a worthwhile addition to yer collection.


Deadones USA / Hollowpoints – Split 7" EP

2 tracks from each band , first up are The Deadones with "City Lights" and "Modern Day Vietnam" .. both good listens .. but the best for me was "City Lights" which was a real catchy track and probably in my opinion the best on the whole single. Hollowpoints 2 offerings "Cell Block 21" and "I See Darkness" ain't too bad , pretty much by the numbers Punk I thought but on the whole catchy and a decent listen. Not a bad release.

V/A – "Dancehall Troops Volume 2" CD/DVD (NFTR0033/DPNFT002)

Bloody hell theres some tracks on 'ere ! Real Punk is what you want and with this CD/DVD that's exactly what you're getting .. tracks galore from the likes of Deadones USA , The Insurgence , Killing California , Dead End Kids .. the list is fuckin' endless !! The DVD is a great viewing and listening spectacle as well full of quality stuff (tho I gotta say The Jabbs bit was funny as fuck !) .. this is a monster package folks and has to be a gotta get in my book .. so get it !!!!

Disdainful



SKINHEAD ROCK

Well Vlad The Bulldog has been around on the scene for years now having run a 'zine , label , shops etc .. and after he mentioned he was in a band I thought I'd have to interview 'em sometime ... and as they have just released their debut full length I thought that now would be a good time

Right , can you tell us when and why Disdainful formed ? And where did the name come from and who thought of it ?

Peddy - We formed the band in November 2005. At first we had different bass player and drummer. After 6 months Vlad came to play drums with us and in December 06 Aja joined on bass. We formed the band because we knew each other for along time and also because there wasn't any Punk/Oil bands in Prague at that time. The name Disdainful came from Aja at a time when she didn't play with us.

Vlad the Bulldog - Oh no , I think there's a lot of Punk/Oil bands but I wanted to play in a strictly Skinhead band and truth is , that Prague has no bands like us. Just a lot of Punk , Ska , Streetpunk , Hardcore and Rocker/Psychobilly bands..

What's the current line up of the band and who does what ? Have any of you been in bands before or currently in a band other than Disdainful ?

Peddy - So I am the singer , Ian plays first guitar , Kish the second guitar , Aja plays bass and Vlad plays drums. I think Vlad played in some bands before and Ian has another band called Engine which is more of a Rock 'n' Roll band.

Vlad the Bulldog - I've played in local Punk and Hardcore bands since 1988 - Red Silas , Bez Milosti , Vycitky Svedomi , Arise .. and I also did all about The Protest , they were a SHARP band with strong music. .

What bands do you listen to and which would you say have most influenced you musically ? How would you personally describe your music ?

Peddy - I like a lot of bands especially the new ones from England , Holland , Germany and Sweden so Retaliator , Bakers Dozen , Discharger , Dims Rebellion , Crusaders etc .. I think we play Oil/Punk with some Viking Rock influences.

Vlad the Bulldog - I like a lot of musical styles from 60's Ska , 77 Punk , 2-Tone , Mod revival , '82 Oil thru' Gothic Rock , New Wave , Hardcore , Psychobilly to Hardrock bands. I listen to bands like Social Distortion , Backyard Babies , HIM , Broilers , Retaliator , Crashed Out , Horrorpops and millions of others ..

Is there one person responsible for writing the lyrics or do all of the band have a hand in writing them ?

Peddy - All the music is made by Ian because he is the only musician in the band. And the lyrics are written by other members , I think everybody wrote soemthing on our CD.

Vlad the Bulldog – There's no problem with lyrics at all cos we usually respect each other and have some ideas and opinions..

Where do the ideas for lyrics come from and what kinda things do you sing about ? Have you got a favourite Disdainful track , if so which one and why ?

Peddy – We sing about the normal themes like football , pride , friends etc .. so it's about our life experiences and our opinions on things. My favourite track is "Warrior" because I really like Viking Rock and this song sounds really great.

Vlad the Bulldog – My lyrics are about the Skinhead way of thinking , about traitors and bitches in the scene , about poseurs and fence walkers and about how we are hated by all .. because most people aren't open minded and I don't think that their point of view is right ..



Do you come up with new songs regularly ? And do you play any covers ? Do you sing in Czech or English ?

Peddy – We have 9 songs of our own and we are working on 2 more. We play covers from Condemned 84 , Ultimathule and a Czech band called Orlik. We sing in English but we also want to do some Czech songs.

Vlad the Bulldog – Hell yeah , Peddy sings in English because of dental problems , he can't say R in our native language haha !

Have you played many gigs to date ? How have they gone ? Can you name some of the bands you've played alongside ?

Peddy – We have played 6 gigs to date. The gigs have gone well , always a big party but sometimes theres been fights because we don't play for angels © We have played with Czech bands like Operace Artaban , Tattooed Bastards , Pilsner Oiquell , Hovorkovi Chuligani , Mordor's gang and one gig in Germany with The Casuals etc ..

Vlad the Bulldog – Next month we'll play with Bakers Dozen in germany again and later at the 'Streetpunk' festival in Slovakia ..

Have you played outside of Prague / Czech Republic or are there any plans to ?

Peddy – As I mentioned before we have played with The Casuals in germany , a great party with Italian mates. And next month we will play in Germany again with Bakers Dozen. We often play outside of Prague.

Have you got a favourite venue / bar in your hometown of Prague ?

Peddy – Yes , but more than one ! I like every place where my friends are so I like the pub 'U Zizniveho Jelena' most because it is a place where we often hang out.

Vlad the Bulldog – I like to drink everywhere but what I love is to stay drunk and alone at 'Carls Bridge' at 4 in the morning And talking of Prague what's the scene like there these days ? Are there many other bands , venues etc .. and how about the Czech Republic as a whole ?

Peddy – As Prague is the biggest city in the Czech Republic it has got a very special scene , a lot of Skins , Punks , Psycho's , Hoolies etc .. so there is no big scene but rather small divided scenes. The bands in Prague , there are 2 Oi!/Punk bands (Kadence and Honorace) , some Psycho bands (Green Monster , Bad Tones , Slapdash) , some Ska bands (All No Stars , Fast Food ..) and many more. In other smaller places its better like in Hradec Kralove (more Hardcore kids) , Brno (good bands like Operace Artaban and Tattooed Bastards come from that town and we have a lot of friends there) , Pilsen (city of beer and Pilsner Oiquell). I personally like the scenes in smaller towns but I am fuckin' proud that I come from Prague.

Vlad the Bulldog – Peddy forgot the biggest bands like The Chancers for example – a great 2-Tone band with an old British Skinhead singer , my brothers band Eastern Star – great dirty Rock 'n' Roll ... I think Prague has a great scene but a divided one.

How would you say the Czech scene has changed since you first got involved ? What would you say are the best and worst things about it ?

Peddy – I think the scenes gotten bigger and that's why there are more rumours , lies and fights. Because more people – more opinions. Good thing is that some people try something to improve it (zines , labels , web radios , bands) and the worst is that some people are talking bullshit about people who do something for the scene.

Vlad the Bulldog – I've been here since 1987/1988 so everything's changed a lot. But I don't want to be a pathetic nostalgic wanker – I loved the old times when I was young and restless but now it's much bigger. Maybe there's a lot of poseurs, lot of money and so on .. but I like that too.

How old are you ? How long you been into Punk , Oil etc .. and what got you involved in the first place ?

Peddy – I am 23 and I've been into it for 7 years. I was involved by my school mate in primary school, he lent me some Punk tapes and I got into it.

Vlad the Bulldog – I'm 33 and I've been into Punk since my childhood – my aunt was a Punk at the end of the 70's so I heard bands like The Clash, Buzzcocks, Plastic Bertrand and Blondie when I was 4 years old. But everything truly started in 1985 when I first saw an electro 'Punk' band Sique Sique Sputnik and wanted to look like them. 2 years later I found Uk Subs, The Exploited and Anti Pasti because I bought an LP called "Back Stage Pass" in the 'House of Polish Culture' here in Prague. I was a Punk kid – and into Punk, Oil, Ska .. whatever!

You've just brought your debut full length out can you tell us a bit about that and what we can expect ? Were you pleased with the outcome of it ?

Peddy – On the CD you'll find 9 of our songs and a cover of Ultimathules "Proud & Strong". We recorded the CD in 1 weekend but I think it sounds good and people like it. The booklet has 16 pages with lyrics, photos and thanks list etc ..

Vlad the Bulldog – Yes that's it. Just weekend recordings and we were drunk, it's better than a demo but I think we play better and faster live than on our debut record. But it's okay I think and we like it ☺

Are there any other releases planned for the not too distant future ?

Peddy – We are working on 2 new songs at the moment so maybe a split EP but we have no plans yet.

Vlad the Bulldog – Czech Hardcore band Streetcore asked us for a split CDEP and German label 'Skins On Terror' are doing an LP version of our debut album, my dream is to do another full length CD with a more aggressive sound ..



You're very active within the scene Vlad, you have a shop, label, webzine and so the list goes on .. where do you find the time to fit in the band ? And would you like to see more people become active within the scene ?

Peddy – I want to recommend to you my webzine <http://backstreetbattalion.com> which is done with the help of Aja and Kish and also <http://radio.skinhead.sk>, where you can hear me playing some nights.

Vlad the Bulldog – I started to do my 'Bulldog' fanzine back in 1992 but I have no time anymore to work on him so there's 'Streetpunk.cz' which is an online version but at the moment we're re-workin it. The label is my hobby, I have released about 11 CD's by local Streetpunk and Skinhead bands and 1 EP. My shops are my real job. 'Bulldog Shop' is more into street clothes and Skinhead things and 'Broken Heart Shop' is into Psychobilly, Punk, hardcore and Hotrod culture. Everything I did and I do is my real hobby including the band or gigs I've done. It's great when you can live and work in your scene. All my dreams came true and I'm happy about that. About other people, it's okay when they play in a band, write a fanzine, do gigs, buy the records, go to see shows etc etc .. it looks like a functional underground world.

What do you do outside of the band and what interests do you have ?

Peddy – Except for Vlad we all study. I like to go out to football, gigs etc .. I like fitness and go out with my mates.

Vlad the Bulldog – I spend my time with my wife and 2 kids, with my friends, with my band or shop sellers and my secret passion is illegal street racing so I love to take my Nissan 200 SX and enjoy drifting, racing etc .. this is my favourite shot of adrenalin.

You have your own My Space page , do you also have another band website ? What do you think about My Space / the net in general ?

Peddy - We will make a regular web page in the near future I think because of more gigs , CDs and info about the band. My Space is a good thing , for example I can do interviews for 'Backstreet Battalion' through it or you can contact bands directly about gigs etc ..

Do you get to read many fanzines ? Which are your favourites ?

Peddy - I like Czech fanzines like 'Bulldog' , 'Boots & Braces' , 'Our Cult' , 'Splinter' but they have all finished. The only new one here is '4Subculture' I think and 'Skinread' (too much politics for me). From abroad 'zines I know 'Stolz Und Stil' , 'Nie Jesteżs Jednym Z Nas' , 'Real Enemy' , 'Oil The Print' .. and webzines like 'Aussie Skins' , 'Pissed & Proud' etc ..

Vlad the Bulldog - I liked 'Pure Impact' , 'Skinhead Times' , 'Skintonic' , 'Skins' , 'Bronco Bullfrog' , 'Stahlkappe' , 'Skinhead Sosnowiec' , 'Camden Town' . but they don't exist anymore. I have about 2000 Skinhead fanzines from the 80's to the present day - maybe all that ever existed ! I remember times when I was a traveller - I bought every Skinhead 'zine that I saw , especially in Germany and Poland .. and now it's internet , what can I do ?!

What's your views on the current European / world scene ? Which bands from it do you like and where would you like to see it go in the future ?

Peddy - I like the new bands which I can see live on stage and I hope to play with some of the bands I mentioned earlier in question 3.

Vlad the Bulldog - I knew that the Dropkick Murphys would be a great band but I also thought that Badlands could be great but they split up after 3 albums. Listen , there's a big chance that Streetpunk bands or Punk 'n' Roll bands could be famous , but never any Skinhead bands. Lot's of bands have changed their Skinhead image for a more Punk Rock one as it's more acceptable than the Skinhead thing. Personally I like bands like Loikaemie , Broilers , Deadline , Klasse Kriminale etc .. but they've changed their style to a more acceptable form. I don't think they call themselves Skinheads anymore , it's simply Punk Rock and Punk Rock is up and accepted nowadays , that's what I think ! And there's no complex or antagonism , no reason to say that they're traitors or whatever - all I want to say is that I will stay a Skinhead - it's my life ...

What's the best CD/LP that you've heard recently ? And what was the first record you bought ?

Peddy - I like the new Roials album "Die Letzen Beisen Die Hunden" a lot. My first record which I bought was maybe something by The Exploited or The Sex Pistols I think.

Vlad the Bulldog - First LP I bought was "Back Stage Pass" with the Exploited , Anti Pasti , Cyanide , UK Subs and Slaughter & the Dogs and the best CD I've heard recently is probably Razorblade self titled CD.

Whats next for Disdainful and whats your aims for the future ?

Peddy - I want to play gigs and continue playing in the band and keep doing 'Backstreet Battalion'.

Vlad the Bulldog - Doing my www.streetpunk.cz , open a new shop with boots and shoes only and play at 'Wasted' hehe
Any Messages ?

Peddy - Thanks for the interview and cheers to all our friends.

Vlad the Bulldog - Good luck with 'Oi! Warning' bro and hope to see you soon , thanks and cheers.!

And cheers to Vlad and Peddy for answering the questions , nice one and much appreciated I Good luck with the band and everything else you do !! and hope you get to open a new shop soon Vlad mate !



UNION MADE

Well I caught Union Made on their full length "Hard Grace" on 'Insurgence Records' and must admit to being mightily impressed with what I heard .. so I made it a point to get these guys into the zine sometime , well Randy Insurgence contacted me and asked if I would be up for putting an interview he was doing with the band into the zine .. to say I jumped at the chance would be an understatement ! .. so here we go ...

How was the band formed and what made the band settle on the name Union Made ?

We came up from a series of bands. The first was Oil! outfit The Street Troopers with our actual drummer , bassist and singer. Later came Hardcore Fate 2 Hate with remaining guitarist Rich. I only sang 2 songs with them. Eventually the bands full time singer left and they asked me to play full time. We became more Old School orientated (Cro-Mags and Bio-Hazard) and much more political. So it was natural for us to just change name. We had a song called "Union Made" and it represented our spirit (we're 'Union Made' from bone to brains – family , work and friends , union is our strength..) so we stuck with it.

At the start of the "Hard Grace" CD you yell out 'This is Revolutionary Hardcore' .. how would you define 'Revolutionary Hardcore' ?

It's just Hardcore that takes the political analysis to a broader level , I think most of Punk Rock and it's offsprings have always been class conscious. Certain bands , like ours , are just more ideological about it , I guess that's what we mean.

What are the bands main influences , musically and politically ?

Musically .. Bio-Hazard , Madball , E-Town Concrete and Ignite are big ones. Politically , all the members in our band don't necessarily label themselves and are not necessarily active asides from the band. I write the lyric's and they represent my point of view the most , but no one in particular influenced me.



Union Made did a short tour of the North East USA in 2005 .. what was that experience like for the band ?

We've always played around the North East. Baltimore is absolutley awesome , they have a great scene with great people , especially Spit On Your Grave.

There's no getting around the fact that Union Made's lyric's are pretty political and that you're trying to get a message out , do you see Union Made more as educators or entertainers ? What's more important , the music or the message ?

We are definatley there to entertain and have fun. It ain't necessary to shut our brains off while we do it though. As for our lyric's those subjects are just what inspire us. I actually have no idea what else I could write about , but it might happen. Oppression has always been the greatest sources of inspiration , much of American Folk music is proof of that.

So how would you describe the Union Made message ? What are you trying to get across to folks who are listening to Union Made ?

Our message revolves around the idea that the working peoples strongest asset is a union , for every aspect of their life , not just in the labour part. We try to get across the fact that we can change things for the better , we just got to look at it on a greater scale than our own lives and pace our efforts so we don't give up after a few years of activism.

Tell us a bit about the scene in Quebec .. It seems there are a lot of bands that are overtly left wing and anti fascist coming from that area , especially from Montreal , why do you think that is ?

We have a bit of a tradition of left wing politics and anti fascism in the scene. Why ? I don't know really , but Quebec is a very open minded place to start with. There have been strong anti fascist crews since the late 80's in Quebec and they have influenced many of the newer people. They have also become organisers within the scene which plays a big role.

So what local bands would you recommend to our readers ? What bands are taking a left wing and anti fascist stance ?

Corrigan Fest are a Pogues type band you have to get your hands on. The members come from Shock Troops and Banlieue Rouge and you can tell by the anti fascist lyric's Esclaves Salaries are the best Clash type band around with The redskins feel to it. Jeunesse Apartheid are the ever present sing-a-long Oi! band with the most political lyric's you can find. Soul And Spirit are a Skinhead Reggae outfit with a left wing feel. Try To Win are a great Hardcore band. Hold A Grudge are good friends and make great Hardcore. Inpsy are the best Punk-Motorhead type music in a long while. Automatix are a new '77 band with the whole image thing , very good. I can keep naming some but

What are you guys listening to these days ? What bands are turning your crank ?

The new Ignite album is just great on every level. Corrigan Fest (Pogues style) from Montreal are excellent. Big Red from France is amazing Dancehall.

Any plans for further recording/touring ?

We're still writing songs for our next album and we're playing Ontario and Quebec all Summer.

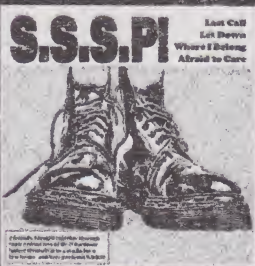


Well big thanks go to Nic , the vocalist of Union Made for answering the questions and to Randy Insurgence for putting them to him .. cheers buddy , much appreciated !! Hope all goes well with 'Insurgence Records' and I look forward to hearing some new releases soon .. and people if you ain't heard Union Made yet then make an effort cus they are they are the fuckin business !!!

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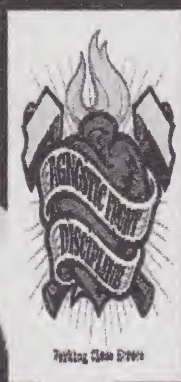
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Token
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Left Alone
"Dead American Radio"
7 songs on a 7" vinyl
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Aggressive Front Discipline
"Working Class Heroes"
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Foreign Legion
Suburban Lockdown

VA "Show 'em whatcha got California!"



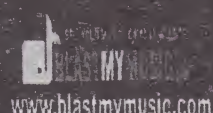
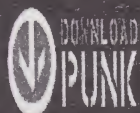
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DURTY MICK
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Well 'Durtly Mick Records' have been busy releasing some great stuff of late, the new Foreign Legion album and the Agnostic Front & Discipline split album to name but two - so I thought that an interview with Mick would be in order, to find out abit more about the label and the man himself -

So Mick, when and why did you decide to start up the label and where'd the name 'Durtly Mick' come from?
I started using the name 'Durtly Mick Records' in August of 2006, saying I would start a label, but I didn't get my first release out until January of 2007. I have always loved Punk, Oi! and Hardcore music and played in a couple of bands in Florida before moving to California. When I came to California I just couldn't get back in a groove of playing in a band, so I decided to start a label, with the help of my friend Laurens Kusters from 'I Scream Records'. I got the name 'Durtly Mick' about 6 year's ago while I was in the United States Marine Corps ... let's just say I'm a fun drunk!

What have you released to date Mick? And where can people get hold of them?

My current roster is - Agnostic Front/Discipline - "Working Class Heroes" DBL LP
V/A - "Show 'Em Whatcha Got California" CD
Foreign Legion/Suburban Lockdown - Split 7" (LIVE)
Foreign Legion - "Death Valley" CD
Token Entry - "The Re-Issues" Limited DBL LP
Left Alone - "Dead American Radio" Limited DBL LP

Everything is available through my webstore : www.durtymickrecords.com

The Agnostic Front/Discipline LP was an awesome release, I have seen it on CD as well, how'd you come to release the vinyl version? It was a limited edition, has it sold out now and who designed the cover?

This is definatley my crowning glory! This was originally recorded in Belgium in 2001, on 'I Scream Records'. Lauren's was nice enough to let me license this from him, because he knew I am a huge AF and Discipline fan, and I would do it justice! I did a limited run of 500 and tried to make it as nice as possible, with transparent red vinyl for AF and the transparent blue for Discipline. I went with a gatefold cover and upgraded the stock so it wasn't flimsy. Helena Kusters did the art for the CD release, so I asked her if she would do it for the vinyl as well. We stuck with the same theme as the CD, but bigger, and cleaned everything up and added the pictures to the LP labels. This thing is almost as good as gone! There are maybe 40 floating around in the office and a few with a couple of distro's.

What's the best selling release to date? And do you have a personal favourite release?

The Agnostic front, so far, is the best to date, because it went so fast! The Foreign Legion CD is starting to catch on! We're just waiting for reviews to come out, so the world knows it's out there and what a great job the guys did. Surprisingly the California comp. is not moving as well as I had planned, although it is getting nothing but positive feedback and reviews. I would have to say the vinyl's are my favourite releases, but I put months and months of work into "Show 'Em whatcha Got California"!

How do you decide what to release? What's a band gotta have for you to want to release something by them?

I want dedicated bands that want to put the same effort into their music as I am. I work my ass off getting their

releases into the stores and getting them interviews etc .. All I want is for them to tour and spread the word of the label and their releases.

What's been sent to you recently that's caught your ear ?

For being a new label I get a lot of stuff already ! So , if I haven't listened to your demo's yet I'm sorry , I will !! Suburban Lockdown from Orlando , Florida did an album with 'Steel Capped Records'. However , they now call 'Durdy Mick Records' home , at least for their new album "Laid To Waste" due out this June. I also heard from a band in Southern California called The Red Devil Squadron and let's not forget Kill Nine Nine who were the first track on the California compilation.

You just released the new Foreign Legion full length , how'd you get hooked up with Marcus and the lads ?

How do you think the album turned out ? Will you be releasing it on vinyl as well as CD ?

I think it turned out great ! They really put a lot of effort and energy into this one. It's definatley a lot faster and harder than the last one. The first time I spoke with Marcus was right around the time I started the label. I saw that they were looking for a label , so I sent him an email saying that maybe we could do something down the road , like a 7" , I heard the split with Major Accident years ago and really like "What Goes Around". Well down the road turned into yes , let's do a 7" now ! Marcus liked the way I worked and asked if I would do the full length and the rest is history. I can't wait to do it on vinyl !! I'm waiting for Marcus to get me some good high resolution live shots , do some extra art , lyrics etc ..

You seem to like your vinyl Mick , so will you be releasing a lot of vinyl ? How does vinyl compare to CD's sales wise ?

I love vinyl ! That is the main reason I got into this , to put out vinyl I could never get ! I'm currently working with a couple of different labels right now in the hope of re-releasing some of my old favourites on vinyl .. Sales wise ?

Well , let's just say I do the vinyl because I love it ! It's really expensive to do vinyl , never mind gatefold , the printed inner sleeves , thicker stock ... I could go on and on ... I just like all the feedback I get from the vinyl that I have done , as long as people appreciate it , I will keep doing it.

Tell us a bit about yourself Mick , how did you get into it all etc .. ?

I turned 25 in May , I have lived in the Los Angeles area for a little over a year , before I moved out here to live with my lovely girlfriend I was in the Marines for 4 years (2001-2005) , not exactly the best time to be in but what can you do ? I guess I really got into Punk when I was about 15 ... Some say that's late in the game , but , oh well , what can you do ?! One thing I will always remember is when I was being a little shit to my parents all the time , going out partying and mom saying to me "It's just a phase , you'll grow out of it !" , everytime she said that I would think of The Subhumans song "No" from "The Day The Country Died" .. "Don't worry , you'll get over it , you'll grow up , you'll calm down.." Pretty much after the military , I didn't work for a while .. just odd jobs here and there until I moved to Los Angeles , started working on cars a lot more .. joined the greatest car club in the world , The Rumlbers and here I am now !

What do you do for a living ? Are you involved in any other projects apart from the label ?

I go to scholl full time and have a job I work once a week , delivery driver. Other than that , the label is pretty much full time ! Every minute I get I am either emailing someone or researching something. I am starting to paly music again but nothing to brag about yet.

What's next for the label ? Any releases planned for the near future ?

Left Alone - "Dead American Radio" will be out in early June , it is colour vinyl , limited to 500 once again , with all new artwork and 2 bonus tracks , only released on 'Durdy Mick Records' ! Then there's Suburban Lockdown's new album "Laid To Waste" also due out in June/July. Later this year 'Captain Oi!' has been nice enough to let me license Major Accident's "The Clockwork Demo's" for a limited vinyl run. "Show 'Em Whatcha Got Florida" will be out in early 2008 which will be the second in the series , also New York , Boston .. then there's a few other thing's up in the air , but I can't give them all away.

California seem's to have a host of good bands , who are your favourites ? Any you think we should be looking out for ?

I have only been here for little over a year .. I did the California comp. first to get to know some of the bands. Nuts & Bolts in Oakland definatley put on an amazing live show , full of energy. Unfortunatley Strongarm & The Bullies are taking a little break due to Eric being in Iraq. Left Alone has been together for quite some time , and are still putting out great music. Kill Nine Nine is a band I would keep an eye out for , also The Red Devil Squadron. Dead End Stiffs are also a great band that I wish played more ! There are tons of great bands here in California and it's really hard to mention everything and everyone.

What do you personally think of the Californian scene ? How about the States as a whole ? How would you like to see it go in the future ?

I think it has the potential to be a great scene if it wasn't so divided. There are some great bands all across the US but just like anywhere else you're always going to have your problems at shows. For a while there was a fear of 'main stream shit' coming into the scene and ruining the underground and a lot of new bands sounding like old. I have gone to a few shows recently and they were dead ! No turn out what so ever ! Some of the older bands are coming back to play shows , but for all the wrong reasons .. make a quick buck and get out .. I don't think people

really 'listen' to music like they used to. There almost needs to be a resurgence .. individuals should not be scared to go to a show by themselves , it should still be about having a good time and enjoying a couple of bands , not getting your teeth knocked in .. even though now and then everyone needs their teeth knocked in ! A lot of people want to get out there and make a name for themselves and that's not what the so called "scene" is about .. not in my opinion anyways. You wanna make a name for yourself , start a band , start a label , start a 'zine , post messages on you're my Space .. Fuck , join a boxing gym ..

Do you get out to a lot of shows ? What's the best bands you've seen recently ?

Every chance I get ! Whether to see a new band or old. Conflict played not long ago , and I thought they were great ! The Templars came through , Street Dogs always put on a great show , Agnostic Front were here recently , another band that just kills it live !! I'm looking forward to seeing Foreign Legion , I've heard they are full of energy.

What are your hopes for the label Mick ?

Just quality music ! Good to listen to , and great to look at ! I would love to be able to keep re-releasing classics on vinyl. Just hoping I don't flop on my face and knock out all my teeth ! It's catching on pretty good , I think people are starting to appreciate what we're doing and are continuing to get our new releases , because they know it's going to be quality ! That's what I want this label to be known for ..

Any messages ?

Thanks to everyone who has helped support the label and support me ! too many to name , but here goes .. Ma , Pops , Stephanie , Laurens & Helena , Tobel , Damon , Saurkraut , Taron , Marcus & the Foreign Legion lads , Kevan & Suburban Lockdown , Roger Miret & The Disasters , Vinnie & Agnostic Front , Rumlbers Car Club Worldwide , Street Dogs , thanks for always looking out ! , Elvis & Left Alone , Bruce , Revelation Records , Jason Meeler & the record pressing crew , Sean at Oi! Warning , Dave Highter , Support you troops and anyone else .. you know who the fuck you are !!

Cheers to Mick for the interview , much appreciated buddy !! I hope all goes well for you and the label in the future .. and that you continue to go from strength to strength .. keep the great releases coming !!!!





Well after hearing Suzuki Smith's new full length "Amber Alert" and liking what I heard I thought it'd be a good idea to get the low down on them so here we go with Jay answering the questions

To start with Suzuki Smith kind of began life as a 1 man band didn't it? Can you tell us how it all started and when you recruited the other 2 members?

Yes, Suzuki Smith did have it's beginnings as a 1 man band, sort of experimental project. I had always been in someone else's band and I felt it was the right time to do things my way so I started writing songs to see if I had the writing chops it took to put an album together. I wrote and recorded a good handful of songs in my attic on a Tascam 400 4 track recorder that I borrowed from a friend and, regrettably, have yet to return. I used the basics - a drum machine, bass, my horrible guitar playing and then I belted out the lyrics first take. I liked what I heard so I gave the CD to a guitarist friend of mine that I worked with and he learned all the songs overnight. That's how I discovered John Voulgaris and he's been the guitarist for Suzuki Smith ever since. Next step was to get a drummer so I put up an ad on 'Craigslist' in the musician section. We got a couple of crazies show up to audition - as expected - and then Cliff Van Etten walked through the door and completely blew us away. His raw talent and the ability and willingness to learn is what interested us in him the most. It took a bit of time but I found the guys I was looking for. I couldn't ask for better band mates.

How'd you come up with the name Suzuki Smith?

It's quite simple - name recognition! There really is no story behind the name except my extreme marketing genius. Sorry if that disappoints anyone. The point of the name Suzuki Smith is to reach as many people as possible, both words in the band name are very popular last names in places that are the birthplaces and/or bastions of Punk Rock - Great Britain, Japan and the United States. If you have one of these last names or you know someone who does you WILL remember the band name if you hear it or see it. That's a lot of fucking people right there. The alliteration (the use of the letter S at the beginning of each word) punches it home because it is easy to say and remember. So ends the lesson in literature and marketing.

How and when did you get into Punk, Oi! etc .. and was being in a band something you've always wanted to do?

When I was a kid in the early 80's I wasn't really into music very much. I did listen to and like bands such as The Clash, The Sex Pistols, The Ramones, Blondie, The Queers, early Social Distortion, Dinosaur Jr, The Mentors, Operation Ivy, The Misfits etc .. Good stuff. I guess I really got serious about what I liked and didn't like when I was in college in the early 90's. Lot's of really good bands came out then and some new styles of Punk seemed to kick off. So-Cal Punk finally hit the scene on the East Coast and I thought it was great. Bands like Schreaching Weasel, NoFX, Sublime. Bouncing Souls and Rancid (old Op Ivy, of course) were just a lot of fun and still are. I guess what I liked about it the most was the infusion of Reggae and Ska into the genre. I love Reggae. Punk and Reggae are the true music of the people. I never really thought about being in a band until a friend of mine, a long time ago when I moved to Boston, asked if I would play bass for his garage band. I owned an old Peavey T20 Jazz bass that always fell

out of tune. It was gigantic and awkward but I loved that thing. I really enjoyed the experience because I learned a lot about what it takes to be in a band and I got some recording and stage experience out of it.

Have any of you been in abnds before ? Or involved in any other bands/side projects at the moment ?

All 3 of us in Suzuki Smith have had varied levels of prior band/musical experience. John had spent years in various cover and original bands. He has the most experience out of all of us. Cliff jammed for years with his buddies in New Jersey and I was the bassist and backing vocalist in various projects for other people. Most of our individual endeavors , up to now , have been pretty much just learning experiences with other people – some of which were either too lazy to get shows or were afraid of succeeding. We are not like that. We are very aggressive in getting our music out to people.

Are you the main songwriter or do John and Cliff contribute any songs/lyrics ?

I write every word for every song. Thus far , that's how it has worked out and it seems to be working out well. Each song I write means something to me personally. Generally speaking one of us will come up with a new basic riff for a song , introduce it to the band and then take that riff home and tweak it and write it.

Do you find it hard to come up with new lyrics ? You have a wide variety of songs covering loads of subjects where do you get the ideas for them from and is there a favourite or one that you're particularly proud of writing ?

I find it really easy to come up with new song ideas and lyrics for those songs. What I do is look around and see what people are doing , what emotion it creates and then , if I think it's funny , interesting or somehow appropriate and song worthy , I sit down and write it out. My eyes are always open and my ears are always listening. If you get drunk and tell me an embarrassing story about you that is really funny I will write a song about it. The 13th song on our new album is called "Imac Had A Taintbug" and is a perfect example of that. So , BE CAREFUL if you see me at a party or at the pub ! Subjects that I stay away from writing about are .. a broken heart because a girl left you , your parents got divorced and you are a needlessly angry middle upper classsuburbanite , anything regarding intolerance and hate , sobriety (it's a worthless state to be in) and any other topic that just sucks balls ! When I write a new song I usually try to make it funny or interesting somehow to keep the listeners attention. I always have some sort of moral point that I'm driving home if you take the time to listen to the lyrics. I am particularly proud of and happy with "Kamikaze Irishmen". Now right there is a song with something to say !

What bands do you listen to and which would you say have particularly influenced your music ?

I would say that a couple of bands have directly influenced Suzuki Smith are The Clash , The Ramones , NoFX , Slayer , Johnny Cash , Dream Theater , Social Distortion , Mike Ness's solo work , The Queers , Randy Rhoads and so many more , the list could go on forever.

Boston gave us , and is still giving us , some great bands why do you think that is ? Are there any local bands that you'd say are worth keeping an eye out for ?

Boston is the major connection to all of New England. They call it The Hub for that reason. If it's happening it's probably in Boston. That's where so many people go to try to make something of themselves. Musicians aren't any different. Here is my short list of Boston are bands that I think are worth keeping an eye out for .. Blue Collar Convicts , Sinking Spells , Kill Conrad , Milo's Syndicate , Darkbuster and The Downbeat 5. I'm sure there are tons more that I just cannot think of right now. There are so many hardworking bands out there with some really great music. That's why Boston's music scene is one of the best.

You released your debut full length which I thought was a really good listen , what'd you think of the outcome and what kind of feedback have you had on it so far ?

We are very happy with how it all turned out. It's well made but not over produced. We made sure we didn't lose that rawness and that high energy that gets killed when music is run through too many wringers. We have gotten some very good reviews from fans and Punk magazines alike and we are very pleased with the attention it has received along with the sales on 'iTunes' and 'CD Baby'. The airplay on local college radio has also helped quite a bit too. But I would love to sit here and write about how everyone has loved the album and that it changed their lives or something ridiculous like that. Fact is , some people really didn't like it. Well that's just fine because what we do is not for everyone so it's fine with us if you pick it up and then set it down or use it for a beer coaster on your coffee table. For our latest review of "Amber Alert" go to Andy K's 'Music Of the Streets' My Space page blog section www.myspace.com/musicofthestreets , his review is very indicative of how the CD is being received overseas. Give it a read.

Have you got a favourite track from the album ?

For me it's a 3 way tie for my most favourite track. "Kamikaze Irishmen" , "Shred Of Reason" and "Wife Beater" are my most loved. In "Kamikaze Irishmen" I discuss the Irish condition of tackling sobriety. A few years back I saw an Irish kid , right off the boat , come to the bar where I used to work (big shout out to 'PJ Ryan's' , Sommerville , MA) and just destroy himself every night pint after pint. He shall remain nameless but the song is about him. "Shred Of Reason" is a song about me and how I am a ginormous jackass. "Wife Beater" is a song about what my cowardly

asshole grandfathers did to both of my grandmothers back in the 1940's – and the revenge my grandmother's exacted on those douche bags ! All 3 of those songs , like pretty much all of our material , are about true events. The truth is stranger than fiction. Life is really fucked up if you just take a second to look around and see what people are doing and listen to what people are talking about , you can't make this shit up !

Where can people get hold of "Amber Alert" ? have you got any other merch available and have you got any plans to release anything else in the nesr future ?

"Amber Alert" is for sale online at 'iTunes' (just search us , we're there) , 'CD Baby' (www.cdbaby.com/suzukismith) , 'Interpunk.com' , 'Downloading.com' , 'Rhapsody' and a few others. We also sell the CD at shows for much cheaper along with Suzuki Smith t-shirts , stickers and random other gear. We are in the middle of planning a split CD with another local Boston band. I'm not releasing the bands name yet or any names of tracks that we might record and use. New material is always fun to dangle in front of people. Be on the lookout for this one because it's going to be pretty big.



Do you play many shows ? Has there been a stand out one so far ?

We play a lot of shows. I am always booking us for something in NYC , Philadelphia , all over the greater Boston area and anywhere in between. We played a show with Iron Cross and Murphy's Law on July 7th and it was a great time and privilege to share the stage with those guys. Those are 2 bands that we really respect and enjoy listening to. We just got back from a 3 day mini tour with our best buddies The Blackout Shoppers. We played a show in Staten Island (NYC area) at 'Martini Red's' and it was a really huge show with some of the better bands in the area. It was all ages and the kids went absolutely nuts while we played. It's the best feeling in the world to see people you don't know enjoying your music and already knowing the words and singing along. It was probably our best show to date. I'll have video of it up on our My Space page soon (www.myspace.com/suzukismith).

From the bands you've played with which ones have really impressed you ? What's the last show you went to see ? I would have to say that Blackout Shoppers , Sinking Spells and Blue Collar Convicts have impressed me the most lately. Great songs , great work ethic and all about Punk Rock. They share our no bullshit approach to everything. I saw Reserve play a show at 'Charlie's Kitchen' in Harvard Square not too long ago. I'm sure there have been a few in between then and now but that one stands out.

Do you guys always get along or are there times when you fall out ? You must have some funny stories about tours , shows n shit , fancy sharing a couple ?

All 3 of us spend a huge amount of time busting each others balls about everything. We are all best friends but we do

get on each others nerves from time to time. But there is never any hatred or any kind of falling out. What we have going on here with Suzuki Smith is bigger than all of us individually so there is no room for egos getting in the way. We all know that and we respect each other in turn. We are like family here. The best part is how we keep each other in check. We love to drink and raise some hell and we always have each others back. Especially on tour when all we have are each other to depend on. Funny story while on tour .. we finished a show in NYC and we were all a little pissed off because the venue sucked and the crowd was nowhere to be seen and there was absolutely no energy in the room at all. We just weren't really into the show and that transferred over to how we played on stage. That does sometimes happen here and there while on tour. On top of that , we had to drive to Philadelphia for our next show. We got a little shit faced at the club so we went to 'White Castle' (an infamous NYC area burger joint that is the worst crap ever to eat except when you are drunk) to eat and sober up before we hit the road (at 4am). So , we ordered 60 burgers , pissed in the parking lot while waiting at the drive thru and then ate them all and nearly killed ourselves doing it , and farted the entire way down to Philly and pretty much the rest of the weekend. We basically destroyed my friends house where we were staying , she won't talk to me anymore. It was probably the most disgusting thing I have ever had the displeasure of witnessing , seeing and smelling. That's what you get when you have 3 guys in a van who are pretty much a bunch of muck savage farm animals. LANGERS !!

What do you think of the current US scene and what do you think are the best and worst things about it ?

I guess that all depends on what you consider a 'scene'. I think it's in a sad state right now. Good Punk clubs are closing all over the place and the underground Punk movement has pretty much ceased to exist. So , we get force fed some cookie cutter Punk bands that the labels churn out day in and day out. It's just shitty and I'm a bit tired of it. We go the opposite way. I meet so many hard working bands that no one will ever know about because they might not be huge money makers. It's too bad because these bands are fucking good too. And then you have the kids playing Punk Rock dress up and painting their nails black. It seems like some popularity fashion show to see who can 'look more Punk' than the next guy. Sorry , that's not what Punk is. People see the 3 of us at a show that we are playing and they wouldn't have any idea that we were even in a band , let alone a Punk Rock band. Then we go up on stage and do our best to blow them away. We are 3 regular guys who do our talking on stage when we play. For a further explanation of all this , refer to our song "Punk Band" on our new album "Amber Alert" , that song discusses the realities and rigors of being in a Punk Rock band.

Top ten of all time ?

#1 - Johnny Cash (the biggest Punk ever). No one else can compare to him - that includes #2 - 10 . They all try though.

What has Suzuki Smith got planned for the future ?

We are just busy playing shows , travelling (hopefully to the UK in Spring 2008) and maybe some recording in the middle of all that. We hope to get some distro's or label help at some point. But , for now , the DIY Punk ethic is suiting us just fine. If any label out there wants to discuss something , we are always willing to listen. We are easy to work with.

Any messages Jay ?

1. Punk is NOT a fashion. Punk is a mindset and a way of life that cannot be bought or sold. It's not a fashion or popularity contest.
2. Stand up for your right to do as you feel. Never let anyone tell you where to hang out and what to do. You decide what's best for you.
3. Work hard , party hard.
4. Never trust whitey.
5. Know the difference between shit and shine-ola.
6. Support your local music scene - no matter what you are into.

Big cheers to Jay for doing the interview , much appreciated mate. Hope all goes well in the future for you guys and the band .. and it'd be great to see Suzuki Smith over here in the UK at some point. If yer get a chance check out "Amber Alert" people cus it really is a good listen - real Punk !

Suzuki Smith

OUTL4W

Well for ages I've been hearing about this great young band from up North called Outl4w , Tez of DN Allstars knows the fella's and asked 'em a few questions ... so 'ere we go ..

Right fella's a simple one to start with , how did 3 brothers and their mate get to form a brilliant little Punk band called Outl4w ?

Jack - Us 3 brothers were skateboarding when we met Stuart the drummer , we got talking and found out he played drums , so we went round to his house to have a jam together.

Will - Little ? Don't patronise us !! ☺ Well us 3 guitarists are brothers and our parents got us into Punk and playing guitar from an early age. One day we decided we wanted to form a band and thought hmmm who plays drums that we know ? , and then Stuart came into the band. We had met him at the skatepark quite a few times so we went to his house and started playing covers by bands like The Buzzcocks and The Sex Pistols and from then onwards we started gigging and writing our own material.

Rob - We started off in 2004 , we'd all been having guitar lessons since about 6 years old and then we started to play together a bit at home. Being brothers we were always arguing , but then went to see the 'School Of Rock' movie and realised that we need to work together , more like a team , if we wanted to make a band happen. We knew Stuart through skateboarding and asked him to join. Within 6 months we'd recorded our first songs and ended up in the final of the 'XFM Radio Rockschool' competition in London , with judges like the editor of the 'NME' magazine.

Whats the line up ?

Jack - Rob Bentham - Lead Guitar & Lead Vocals , Will Bentham - Bass Guitar & Backing Vocals , Jack Bentham - Rhythm Guitar & Backing Vocals and Stuart Newburn - Drums & Backing Vocals.

As a band what's the best thing you've done so far ?

Jack - Probably doing the promotional tour in Osaka , Japan.

Will - Going to Japan ! It was fucking amazing ! Rob is there now doing interviews without us the lucky bugger !

Rob - Travelling to Japan and playing out there.

Your sound is quite old school for a band so young , none of this mixing it with Metal , Ska and Emo malarkey how did this come about ?

Jack - Well that's what we listen to and none of us like this Emo stuff.

Will - Like I said earlier our parents got us into Punk from an early age but none of Pop Punk Greenday shite. Bands like The UK Subs , One Way System and The Exploited. So I guess we were influenced by these type of bands from early on.

Rob - At a young age we were listening to old school Punk , from our Dad's old CD collection and then got to like the older bands as well as the newer ones.

You've played on the same stage as some of the great Punk bands , UK Subs , GBH , ANWL etc .. how have they taken to you ? Some of 'em are old enough to be your grand dads !

Jack - Yea , they seemed to like us and we got quite chatty with them.

Will - Yeah we're good friends with Charlie Harper and The UK Subs , played with them like 6 or 7 times now. Great band. We're mates with GBH as well , Colin is a legend , played with them before.

Rob - Well Charlie Harper is almost like a grand dad to us , never mind the grand dad of Punk Rock ! We see quite a lot of him and Yuko and get on really well. We always seem to make friends really quickly with the Punk bands we play with and they always seem to like us when they see us play live.

You're gonna tour Japan soon plus Switzerland , Germany and France , exciting times ahead , what else is coming up and what are you looking forward to most ?

Jack - 'Rebellion' in Blackpool's gonna be good.

Will - Definately looking forward to 'Punk Aid Festival' in London and also 'Rebellion' !!!

Rob - Yeah we've got a lot going this year , it's great to start doing gigs outside of the country. We've got quite a few festivals coming up in the UK , we're looking forward to really travelling more and meeting more bands out on the road.

Speaking of touring and stuff who's the backroom staff so to speak , who looks after you in the respect of booking gigs , transport , merchandise and promotion and how much does any of the band have to do with this ?

Jack - Everyone plays a part and Stuart's dad and our dad drive us to gigs. My Space is a big part of it all.

Will - Our manager does all that.

Rob - Well our mum and dad have been involved in the music business for years , it's what they do as a job , so I

guess we've been really lucky to have them helping make everything happen. Dad (John Bentham) is the manager really, but we give him a harder time these days and we know more about what we really want to be doing. He does know a lot about the music business though.

Do you manage to fit any fucking schoolwork into your busy schedule?

Jack - Well we practice on weekdays after 6 pm so we do our work before we go to practice.

Will - Schoolwork? What does that mean? Only joking! Yeah sadly we have to, it's a pain in the ass.

Rob - Well we have to don't we !!

For a long time there has been a need for some proper young Punk bands to bridge the gap between the older Punk audiences and the new breed. I think it's vital for Punk Rock as a whole that bands like yourselves help to unite Punk fans, young and old, what's your views on this?

Jack - Will found this on My Space, don't know who wrote it though.. "We appreciate that kids are expressing themselves everyday in hundreds of different fashions all over this world. We don't care that you were born 13 years ago but still want us to know that you know who the Pistols are or that you are sporting a ragged '77 Clash t-shirt. What do these old men expect from you that they can give you a load of shit about the fact that you weren't even born yet so you can't be wearin that! - Fuck them twisted old peckers, you old strung out selfish bastard. You don't own that era. That era exists today through the desires of our youth. You might not have seen Sid Vicious on stage stagger about like a fucking doped up retard or maybe you weren't there when The Ramones played to like 10 people in a shit New York club called CBGB's - it doesn't fucking matter. You like The Exploited and you feel watties angst like it was recorded on vinyl yesterday - well to you it was! It is brand fuckin' new to these kids so lay the fuck off them. So you heard the first Misfits album and thought that little muscle headed lunatic is talking to me and he is saying the things I need to hear right now - I am going to show everyone I know that I support this band. Old and young this is our plea to the lot of you - old and young get over your age - we don't wanna be your age again - 13 sucks. And you kids don't think you got it all sussed out because you got a kick ass vinyl collection and can read the liner notes of what Joe wrote about. You need to live this life and you will do these things in your own way. I can say this much for you young Punks, every time I hear some fat old wanker giving a bunch of shit to a group of skinny young Punks about the fashion they're in - I'll be the first one to lob a giant clenched fist into the side of his head. Oi! fucking Oi! you guys are what keep the rest of us going and one day others will be keeping you going so let this cycle roll on and piss off you crusty old hay day relivers because you're stuck in a time that never existed!"

Will - Yeah I completely agree with you, it would be awesome to see all Punk Rockers unite!! Let's make a revolution of Punk Rock!!

Rob - Lot's of people say things like this to us. I suppose it's a bit of an honour really. We just happened to start doing it, but we know what they mean, there are not that many young Punk bands getting attention out there.

Are you signed to any label at the moment? And what are your feelings on whether Punk bands are on Indie or Major labels?

Jack - DIY, no one seems to want us haha.

Will - DIY at the moment.

Rob - We're not signed to any label. We put our first album out ourselves without any proper promotion and were a bit worried about being seen as a novelty. We're not sure that major labels are that interested in Punk, but really it's the music and attitude that should count, not which label it's on.

Knowing what it's like spending long hours together with 3 other band mates tell us something shitty about your band mates like who's feet stink the most, who's laziest, farts the most etc.. come on lets hear the dirt!

Jack - Stu is always late for band practice, Rob leaves stinky farts in the air on the way to gigs and Will can never get ready on time.. it's his hair.

Will - Stuart stinks like a fat mans crack after a gig, Rob does long creepy farts that last like a minute and the smell of shit lingers in the air for like an hour afterwards and what can I say about the youngest? We call him Ratty, don't know why really, we just do ☺

Rob - Will moans a lot, Jack can't keep still, Stuart does really smelly farts and I'm a lazy bastard and can never be arsed getting up in the morning.

Who writes the songs?

Jack - Bobby starts them off and we all finish them together.

Will - Rob with input from the rest of the band.

Rob - I do most of it so far with help from the others.

Right gimme your fave Out4w song (mine is "Jeremy Bentham"), top 3 Punk bands of all time and top 3 Punk songs?

Jack - Mine would be "Blame The Nation", title track of the new EP. And my 3 fave bands would be Rancid, UK Subs and Anti Flag.

Will - "Blame The Nation" / "Sonic Youth". Fave 3 bands are Rancid, UK Subs and The Casualties. Fave songs - The Exploited - "Beat The Bastards", The Casualties - "On City Streets" and Rancid - "Dead Bodies".

Rob - Fave Out4w song is "Sonic Youth". Favourite 3 bands are The Clash, Rancid and The Casualties. And favourite songs The Casualties - "Under Attack", Rancid - "Roots Radical" and The Clash - "Tommy Gun".

What Cd's and merchandise have you got out and how do people get hold of it?

Jack - There's a new 4 track EP out on June 3rd - download only. Everything else has sold out I think.

Will - We had t-shirts but they're all gone and we have a CD for sale on our website.

Rob - So far we've only got the old album "Get In The Van" and the live DVD "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll" which can both be found in the shop (or download store) at www.out4w.tv, we've got a new EP coming out soon on 'Nextpunk Records' in Switzerland.

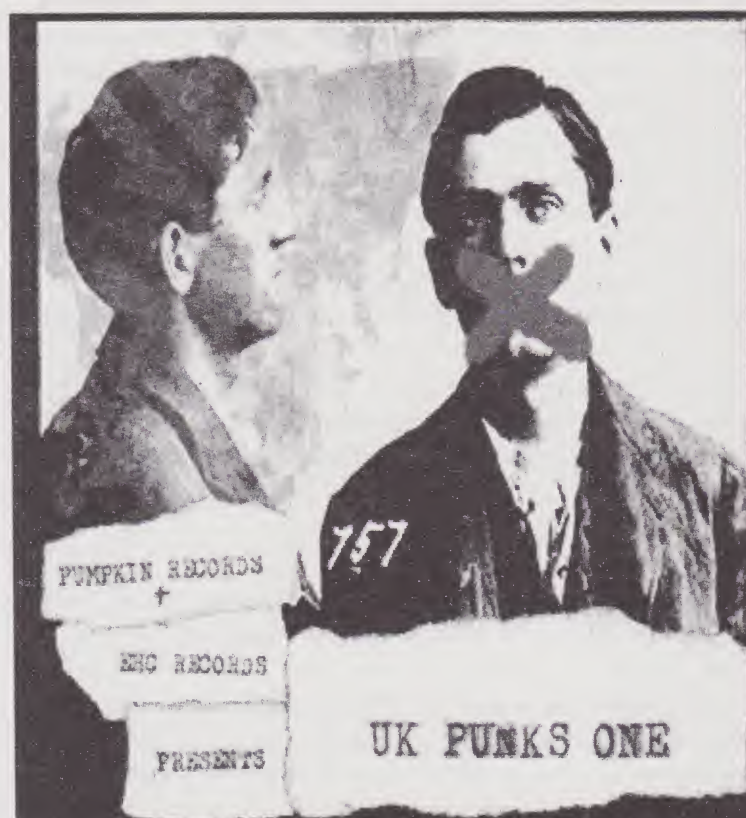
What do you get up to when your not doing the band, any hobbies / sports or other interests we should know about?

Jack - Go skateboarding.

Will - Skateboarding, end of!

Rob - Well we all like skateboarding and I've been doing a bit of BMX'ing lately but you know a lot of listening to music and going out with music.

Well a big thanks to Tez for the interview, nice one mate and much appreciated! And a big cheers to the brothers Bentham for answering it! All the best with the festivals and shit boys.. keep it up!!



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BLUE COLLAR CRIMINALS

WELL I INTERVIEWED MIKE OF THE BLUE COLLAR CRIMINALS A COUPLA ISSUES AGO WHEN HIS OLD BAND LAST LAUGH WERE STILL GOING , IN THAT INTERVIEW HE SAID THAT LAST LAUGH WERE ABOUT TO CALL IT A DAY AND THAT HE WAS WORKING ON A NEW PROJECT SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA TO CATCH UP WITH MIKE AND SEE HOW THE NEW BAND WAS GETTING ON

Right then Mike , firstly can you tell us why your last band , Last Laugh , called it a day and when and why you decided to form Blue Collar Criminals ?

Well our drummer Jesse and I carried the band for all the years and last year Jesse moved out to Rhode Island , I didn't really feel like carrying on the band without him. Plus we'd gone through something like 25 line up changes in the last 10 years and were at that point again and I was like fuck that headache. But I was definatley missing the music and scene and had been writing all kinds of new shit so it was only a matter of time till something was up and rolling again. After taking a trip out to Boston last September and being inspired by the energy of their scene I came back to Tuscon and got the ball rolling with a couple of guys I knew from other bands in town.

Where'd the name Blue Collar Criminals come from and who thought of it ? Would you say it's a name that sums up the band , its members and what you're about ?

I can't really say how I came up with it , it just kinda popped into my head. I've been working a blue collar life of a construction worker for the last 9 years and presently am going through the court system for some shit , so I guess that had something to do with it. But yeah I think it sums up the band pretty well , we're all hard workers and shit , there's not a doubt that we're a bunch of criminals haha.

Whose in the band and what do they do ? What bands have you all been in / currently in besides Blue Collar Criminals ?

Well I'm Mike and I do the vocals and shit talking , and the rest of the band is Chaz on guitar , Max on guitar , Juan on bass and Jeff on drums. I was in Last Laugh , Fatskins , Waking Dead etc .. Chaz is in a Hardcore band called Tempers Flare , Jeff is in Streetpunk band Dirt Eater and Max and Juan both play in a Spanish Punk band called Manopla. So as you can see we're a busy bunch of fuckers.

How would you describe your sound ? Would you say you've taken any of the sounds from previous bands ?

I'd say it's high energy Streetpunk. We take sounds of Oi! , Punk and Hardcore and blend it all up like we're making some ass kicking smoothie or some shit. It definatley has a lot of influence from Last Laugh cause I've been writing the songs so far , but it has more of a Punk edge to it.

Have you written much new material ? Can you name some of the new songs and tell us what they're about ?

Recently I've been slacking on the music and lyrics but yeah we've got a lot of shit coming along. We got a song called "A Way Of Life" which is about how a name and reputation sticks with you , but really means shit. Some people will love ya for it or hate ya for it but in the end it's not really about what they think or the name at all , it's about how you live. Sometimes you're just fucked up and can't even understand why you do what you do , ya know ? Another one is called "Goodbye For Now" which is about a friend passing on and is pretty much a dedication to loved ones who are no longer with us.

Are you going to be playing any covers in your set ? Or including any songs from previous bands ?

Yeah . we're all about great covers. Right now we are doing "Violence In Our Minds" by the notorious Last Resort and have a couple more we are working on. Also a couple of the guys want to do 1 or 2 Last Laugh songs eventually , so we might work them into our set.

Who writes the lyrics and where do the ideas for them come from ?

I write the lyrics and basically stick to what I know , that and my life. I write about what I think and feel , my experiences and the shit that always seems to come my way , good or bad.

What are the aims or your hopes for the band ? And what would you say the band stand for ?

To just have some fun and be able to play and say what we feel passionate about. We'd like to get some recording out and get out on the road when time will allow it. We stand for a bunch of motherfuckers who love the music and the scene and love what we're doing.

How old are you all and how did you get into Oi! , Punk and Hardcore ?

I'm 26 , Juan's 26 , Chaz's 28 , Jeff's 34 and Max is 30. I got into the scene young when I was introduced to it by my brother in law. Everyone else , either through friends or family.

You played your first show on the 16th June along with The Besmirchers and Resident Saints , how did that go and how do you think you went down with the crowd ?

We got an awesome reaction from the crowd , everyone in there ate it up , it was great. The down side was that the line up of the show kept changing. The Besmirchers broke up the week before the show and the fucking Resident Saints didn't even show up. They messaged us the day of the show which we didn't get until the next day which I thought was bullshit on their part , but nevertheless the show was good.

Have you got any other shows planned ?

Well we played our second show on June 29th and that went really well until we got banned from the bar for some stupid drunken bullshit , but fuck them anyway ! And we got a show coming up on July 29th if I don't get locked up.

What's the best thing about being in a band Mike ? ..the shows , meeting people , recording stuff , all the groupie chicks haha ???!

I'd say it's getting my ideas out there , all the shit comes from inside my head , just being able to hear it all come together. Plus you meet some really great bands and people along the way. And pussy , who doesn't love pussy , that's pretty much a given.

Are there regular shows in your town ? Any other bands ? Whats the scene like where you are ?

Arizona as a whole ?

It's been a little dead lately but things are starting to pick up again it seems. As far as Tuscon goes , theres tons of great bands out here and a few I think are good in Phoenix. When the bullshit drama doesn't get in the way the scene is great and is something that can't be fucked with. But you know how it is , drama is everywhere.

What other bands from Arizona would you advise us to check out ?

Checkout Tempers Flare and Dirt Eater for sure. Also The Besmirchers , Swing Ding Amigos , Los Mariños .. shit there's just too many to name.

And what's your opinion on the state of US Punk , Oi! and Hardcore at the moment ? Which bands would you tell us to look out for ? Any up 'n' coming bands to keep an ear out for ?

I think the US scene is pretty decent right now , there seems to be a lot of good bands playing around. I really like Straight Laced , Nuts & Bolts , The Blue Bloods , Blood For Blood , Crucial Change etc .. And yeah look out for us !

Do you get out to a lot of shows ? What's the best you've been to lately ?

Not as much as I'd like to but yeah I still try to make it out to shows. The last good show I got to was a while ago and it was False Promise's last show.

If you were organising a show what 5 bands would you have on the bill ?

Niblick Henbane , The Blue Bloods , headwound , Bonecrusher and probably Blood For Blood.

And if you could pick any song/release that you wish you'd written what one would it be and why ?

Shit , that's a hard one , I'll just say "That's Life" by frank Sinatra or "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey that song rocks.

Have you got any plans to go into the studio anytime soon ?

Yeah we want to get in there as soon as possible , we're just waiting to see wahts up with my court shit. But we do have a live rough recording of 2 songs coming out on a Arizona compilation in the next coupla months.

Whats your top 10 of all time ?

Right now I'd say The Clash - ST , Dropkick Murphy's - "Do Or Die" , Pist 'n' Broke - ST , Cock Sparrer - "Bloody Minded" , Bonecrusher - "Singles Collection" , Combat 84 - "Orders Of The Day" , Misfits - "Earth AD" , Anti heros - "Don't Tread On Me/That's Right" , Misfits - ST , Niblick Henbane - "Happy Happy Oi! Oi!".

Any messages Mike ?

Just want to say thanx to Sean and 'Oi! Warning' for the interview and support and keep a look out for Blue Collar Criminals cause hopefully we can make it to your town and fuck it up. Also don't believe everything you read or hear , just believe what you taste and touch , whatever that means.

Well big cheers to Mike for doing the interview , nice one mate and I hope all goes well with court and Blue Collar Criminals .. I'm looking forward to hearing something by you guys in the not too distant future ..

THE WARRIORS

Well The Warriors are a band that need no introduction as you all know who they are , having recently got back together I thought I'd catch up with 'em and see whats what so here goes

Firstly how'd Camber Sands go from the bands point of view and personally ? And how do you think the new line up done ?

Saxby - We were shit at Camber - FACT - But we still managed to pick up a few new fans. We gained a new young audience but our mates told us how crap we were and that was for 2 reasons. First , the gig came far too early for us as we weren't ready and secondly one of us was rather drunk. The first gig is always the worst for a new band or line up. A good lesson learnt and the 6 gigs since have been pukka.

Were there any bands there that particularly impressed you ?

Saxby - Yes Crashed Out have really improved. Outl4w are one for the future and I really liked Dragster . Argy Bargy , Cockney Rejects and The Last Resort were the best Friday , Saturday and Sunday.

Russ - I worked the Chaos stage for the majority of the weekend and the bands I liked there were Surgery Without Research (Get the 'England' CD it's awesome) , 2 Sick Monkeys , BNI , Dragster , Love and A45 , Sick On The Bus , Chemical Chaos , Mr Shiraz , Outl4w , Die Nakse Bananen. On the main stage Argy Bargy , The Last Resort , Goldblade and Demob.

When and why did you decide to reform the band ? And whose in the band these days ?

Saxby - I wanted to reform the band for ages but things kept going wrong until I met Russ at a gig in Deal. The line up is Saxby - Vocals , Russ - Bass , Dave - Guitar and Ben - Drums.

I see in your interview on 'Streetvoice' webzine that you're working towards a more Punkier sound why's that ? Do you think you've achieved or are achieving the sound you're looking for ?

Saxby - I wanted to keep The Warriors fresh and not some tired old cabaret band so after hearing some old Punk stuff I decided that we should try to be more Punkier and faster and it's part of our campaign to UNITE THE SCENE. As I stated earlier we are playing to a varied crowd and we seem to be winning them over. First Kent then the world haha

And because you're changing to a Punkier sound would you say your lyrics are going in a different direction as well ?

Saxby - Yes although we are still writing new stuff we haven't got to play any new songs yet.

Have you written much new material ? How do you think it compares to the older stuff ?

Saxby - I've written loads of lyrics over the years although we will probably only use a few. Russ has also written some so we will compare notes and work out the best ones. We need to get a few rehearsals in and then get in a studio.

From the new material have you got a favourite ? If so which one and why ? How about older songs is there a favourite or one that you're particularly proud of ?

Saxby - "Political Crossfire" is one the two of us have worked out between us and we like it. "Buddha Of The Backstreets" I like. Our new versions of "Bad Guys" and "Johnny Barden" are good live.

Where do the ideas for lyrics come from ? Do you find it easy to come up with new material ?

Saxby - Mostly I write about actual events or people I know or something that has pissed me off. 90% of my lyrics never see the light of day.

Russ - I write about what goes on around me or what effects my life , never short of ideas.

One of my favourite Warriors tracks is "Big Brother" .. and with CCTV everywhere , increased police powers etc .. the song is more than relevant today , how do you feel about the big brother state that is the UK ?

Saxby - George Orwell was 100% spot on correct and we all allow it in the name of security -

BOLLOX !!!

Russ – It's getting worse here than in China. We are the only country in Europe that is proposing such an extensive ID card system which has no safeguards or protection for the individual. Even China has dropped the biometric scheme as unworkable unlike our government. They give us 24 hour drinking then take away our right to smoke while having a pint – and introduce the smoking police to grass on anyone who lights up – You The Suspect – welcome to the police state.

And 2 songs are about good ol' British justice , or lack of it , namely about Derek Bentley and Reggie Kray , are they 2 cases you feel strongly about ? Do you believe in prison reform and /or believe the criminal justice system should be overhauled/reformed ?

Saxby – The whole criminal justice system is flawed.

Russ – Too many useless laws being introduced which in theory turn the whole country into a prison , with you sentenced to death – suspended for life.

Have you got any plans to go into the studio anytime soon or are there any releases planned for the near future ?

Saxby – We're looking into doing a split single , EP or album with a couple of local bands.

Have you got any gigs/festivals planned for later in the year ?

Saxby – We are playing loads of gigs in Kent , check out www.myspace.com/thewarriorsengland , UNITING THE SCENE with Vice Squad , Demob , Spit Like This , Mini Skirt Blues , Assert and lots of local bands. We have possible gigs unconfirmed with Sham and Amen.

You've been on the scene for years now , when and why and what got you into it ?

Saxby – The Clash and The Pistols got me into it then Sparrer , Sham , The Rejects , Menace and local band The Rivals gave me the incentive to be in a band.

Russ – I got into The Damned , The Clash , Early Antz then later The Ruts , Vice Squad , Stiff Little Fingers and The Subs etc .. Like Saxby it was seeing The Rivals and then The Last Resort that gave me the incentive to play.

Whats your views on the current UK Oi!,Punk and Hardcore scenes ? How would you say it compares to when you first got involved ? Would you say its changed for the better or worse ?

Saxby – There are lots of bands about and the scene in Kent is fairly healthy but some gigs are poorly attended. We've been playing to a varied and younger crowd and its been really refreshing because some of our songs were written before they were born , but the good old days are gone and we're just trying to unite what is left.

Which bands around at the moment in the UK do you rate ? Any up 'n' coming bands you'd tell people to check out ?

Saxby – I still rate Sparrer as number 1 then probably The Rejects. Locally The Submission and 7 Day Conspiracy are worth a look. Anti-Product were good the other night in Margate and I'm looking forward to seeing Bastard Squad at Blackpool , they're from Oz.

Russ – I rate Argy Bargy , Goldblade , The Restarts and locally Crimewave , Apunkalypse Now , 7 Day Conspiracy and Hollywood Suicide who are a Psychobilly band. Looking forward to Sparrer and Slaughter & The Dogs in Wolverhampton.

What would you say are the best and worst things about the scene today ?

Saxby – Best thing is the variety of bands and the age range of punters. The worst is people still bringing politics to gigs.

You've played all over the world , which countries did you most enjoy visiting ? And has there been a stand out gig for you ?

Saxby – Japan was amazing. USA was great too , infact , most countries The Warriors have been to the locals have showed us their way of life and looked after us. We really love that – Cheers guys and girls.

On your travels you must of seen some funny/fucked up things , care to share a couple ?

Saxby – In Japan , James broke a string , a guy with white gloves came out of nowhere and restrung his guitar (everybody who is important seems to wear white gloves in Japan) and in Germany the crowd are hard work. Gundog were playing but the crowd stood still and hardly clapped (in Leipzig) but Gundog still sold loads of merch – weird. But we still love those gigs abroad , its always a laugh.

Whats next for The Warriors ?

Saxby – Well we are looking to UNITE THE SCENE in Kent then London and the world. We've already supported Deadline and Vice Squad and we're pretty busy up til Christmas so check

our My Space page. We would like to do some gigs in places we've not played before such as the Midlands, Scotland and the West Country. So check the My Space and give us a go. We have over 800 friends and it's growing weekly.

Do you get to read many 'zines? Which ones do you like?

Saxby - The last one I read was yours at Camber.

Russ - I usually read online 'zines, 'Streetvoice' and 'Distorted' among others.

All time top 10?

Saxby - Christ that's a hard one, where do I start? On my phone I got - "Al Capone", "London Calling", "Anarchy In The UK", "A.U.", "Bird Trouble", "The Good The Bad & The Ugly", "Right To Work", "Won't Get Fooled Again", "Silver Machine", "Ace Of Spades", "Down To Margate", "World Turned Dayglo", "Big Six", "I Need Nothing", "Clash City Rockers", "A Few Dollars More", "London", "Justice Not Politics", "CID", "Gotta Getaway", "Come Outside", "Madness", "Get A Rope" to name a few, I haven't got a top 10 as such.

Russ - I run and promote a club night in Ramsgate so my top ten changes constantly but being played most frequently are - Apunkalypse Now - "Wots A Matter", Goldblade - "Psycho", BNI - "Shadow", Hollywood Suicide - "Pretty Girls Do Sleep In Graves", Guns On The Roof - "What Do You Want", Airbomb - "I'm So Sick", The Submission - "She Said", Vice Squad - "Britain Is Still Burning", Surgery Without Research - "England", Argy Bargy - "Saturdays Anthem" and The Last Resort - "Fear No Foe".

Any messages?

Saxby - I forgot to mention the PPA which stands for Portly Punks Association. We fear no dough, gravy is for life not just for breakfast, in pies we trust (with mash and liquer), check out their My Space if you got a fuller figure.

Russ - Keep it real keep it veal - Leave your Playstations, PSP's, X Boxes etc .. alone and get out to some gigs and support your scene.

Cheers to Saxby and Russ for taking time out to do the interview, appreciated. All the best for the future fellas and I for one am looking forward to hearing some new stuff by The Warriors soon.

MORE SOUNDS OF THE SUBURBS

GONNA GET YOURS - WWW.MYSPACE.COM/GONNAGETYOURS

Gonna Get Yours - Demo CD

5 track CD from French band Gonna Get Yours who sing in English, and they ain't too bad. They play pretty much yer standard Oi!/Punk music and like I said it ain't too bad, best of the tracks for me was "Suburban Kids" and "A Real Criminal Class" altho' the other 3 were a decent listen as well.

SOGGY DREAM MUSIC - WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SOGGYDREAMMUSIC

V/A - "Sludge" CD

Not a bad first release from Rich of 'Soggy Dream', what yer get for money is 8 tracks of Punk Raaawk people .. Sleezus Fist & The Latter Day Taints, Fall Victim, Mugrero, Dogshit Sandwich, The Pukes, Kelly Carcinogen, Asslunch and The Dead Pawns .. Stand outs were The Pukes with their brilliant "Babies Are Horrible", Dogshit Sandwich's "I'm Out Of Freakin Whiskey" and Fall Victim with "Horrorfalls II" the latter kinda remind me of The Dead Kennedys with their style of music and the vocalists voice.. The Dead Pawns were however a let down as I thought their track didn't fit in with the CD, all in all tho' a good listen and I look forward to more of the same ..

ROWDY FARRAGO RECORDS - WWW.DESTRUCTORS666.COM

Destructors 666 - "Many Were Killed Few Were Chosen" CD (RFA01)

Well as always Destructors 666 supply you with solid anthemic heavy sounding Punk which makes for a good listen, my fave track is on 'ere in the form of "Bullshit" but almost all of 'em on here are a good listen to be honest, probably the best release from 'Rowdy Farrago' to date.

Destructors 666/The Ruined - "777" CD

A 4 track CD with 2 tracks by each band and first up are The Ruined with "Poison Ivy" and "The Dead Are After Me" .. both quality tracks that get the ol' foot tappin', heavy-ish sounding melodic Punk tunes that are a good listen and the vocals seem to have improved since I last heard them .. Destructors 666 2 offerings "The Vampires Kiss" and "The Graveyard Stomp" see the band in fine fettle supplying you with catchy Punk Rock tunes that makes for good listening, all in all this CD is a good listen and worth checking out folks.



Foreign Legion are a band that need no introduction from the likes of me, having been around for years now. Constantly playing gigs and festivals they must be one of the hardest working bands around as well as one of the most popular .. having just released their new full length on 'Durt Mick Records' I thought it'd be a good idea to ask frontman Marcus a few questions ...

Well Marcus, first questions gotta be hows the new album doing? What kind of feedback have you had on it so far? The new album "Death Valley" has been doing really well for us, had great feedback .. USA, Europe, UK, great reviews, people seem to pick different tracks off the album for their faves which is great to hear. 'Durt Mick Records' have now sealed a great worldwide distro with 'Revelation Records'..

I personally think it's the best thing I've heard by Foreign Legion, what's your own opinion of it? Have you got a favourite track on it?

Thanks a lot Sean for the nice comments, we think it's our best work to date, we were asked to go back to West London Mick Jones Studio to record. But this time we done the recording in the Valleys Crossbar Studio, Sean done a great job down there for us .. we started recording Nov/Dec '06, we mixed the album over 3 weeks .. ready for the release date April 20th .. we all like different tracks, my fave is "Sunset On Babylon", the tracks from the album have gone down really well live.

How'd you get hooked up with Mick and 'Durt Mick Records'? Does it ever pose problems, having your label over in the States?

'Durt Mick Records' got in touch with us last year and said they really liked our old albums, they asked us if we would like to work with them and we said yes it would be a pleasure to work with such a great label. They helped us with promo flyers, ads, merch etc .. we hope to start recording a new album for them in December of this year. We also hope to have "What Goes Around Comes Around" re-released and also the "Cry Of The Legion" album split with Major Accident .. the only problem is when will we all get time off work/family life etc .. to go over to the West Coast to promote the album!? You've also not long released a split 7" with Suburban Lockdown, also on 'Durt Mick', how's that doing and were you happy with the outcome?

'Durt Mick Records' done a great job on the live split EP with Suburban Lockdown, I heard their album before the release, they are great friends, a great live band, we hope to share the stage with the lads from Florida one day ..

Are there any plans to do a tour, Britain, Europe, USA .. to promote the new album?

We have been asked to play gigs in Romania, Hungary, Italy, USA, Czech Republic .. we would really like to play all over the world..

You always seem to be playing a festival or a gig somewhere Marcus, is playing live and in different places one of the things you enjoy most?

We have been lucky lads to have played some great festivals over the years, it was great to be part of the 'Chaos' festival, Atlanta 2001 .. 'Holidays In The Sun' festival, 'Wasted', 'Rebellion', 'Punk & Disorderley' .. 'Tiger Heroes' Ska/Punk/Oil

Festival in Czech Republic , 'Concrete Jungle' , 'Hurricane Festival' .. we have all really enjoyed all the festivals and gigs etc .. but one favourite gig would have to be 'CBGBs' in NYC with The Templars , Major Accident , APA , Run Like Hell .. what a night we had the place was packed .. I am sure we are the only Welsh band to have played there.
From the bands you've played with which ones have really impressed you ? and disappointed ? Any bands that you'd like to play alongside but ain't managed to yet ?

I have seen some of the older bands recently just going through the motions , not really enjoyed it , promoters have paid out big bucks etc .. it's disappointing for the new younger kids in the scene to see this .. we have played with some great bands over the years , lucky boys .. who have we got left to support .. The Damned , Sex Pistols , Cock Sparrer .. You've been around for a few years now , can you give us a brief history of the band ?

South Wales band Foreign Legion were formed in 1984 , all band members came from the band Dead On Arrival , to date the band have released 4 studio albums , 7 EP singles and have appeared on 15 worldwide compilation albums.

What's kept you involved / into the music and scene all these years ?

We just love the scene , it's the best scene in the world to be in , we have met some great bands , a lot of friends worldwide , great labels , zines etc .. it's great to be part of the Punk and Oi! scene.

And what got you into Punk in the first place ?

I would say when we heard The Sex Pistols , Sham 69 , Cockney Rejects , The Clash .. we all wanted to form a band !

How would you say the scene has changed since you first got involved ? Would you say these changes have been for the better ?

We only wish there was a lot more Punk gigs in South Wales !

What would you say are the best and worst things about the scene today ?

We would say the best thing is these festivals bringing everybody together , but there's not enough support in the media / radio airplay to help the scene like the old days.

What bands would you say have played a big part in influencing Foreign Legion ?

For this I would say The Clash , The Ruts , Cockney Rejects , Dropkick Murphy's , Cock Sparrer ..

And which bands around today have particularly caught your ear ?

I've just been listening to the new Beerzone tracks , this is going to be one hell of a new album ! Really enjoyed Dun2Def , Goldblade , Demob , PFS , Strawberry Blondes , Drongos ..

What's your opinion on all the old bands reforming ? Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing ?

It's great for the old bands to come back for the new kids to see , as long as they give 100% and not just going through the motions..

You like your 'zines Marcus , which ones do you like reading and what would you say are your all time top 10 'zines ?

I have been collecting 'zines for 20 years from all over the world , I just love checking them out .. now you got me Seany boy , top 10 wait for it (1) MRR - usa (2) EVERLONG - uk (3) BLOWN TO BITS - uk (4) Oi! TOWN - Ireland (5) Oi! WARNING - uk (6) NEGATIVE REACTION - uk (7) RIOT 77 - Ireland (8) ROOTS FOR BOOTS - hungary (9) NO BOLLOX JUST Oi! - romania (10a) Oi! THE PRINT - austria (10b) RIOT ON YER OWN ... I could go on and on mate .. I think Fast Loud Rules from the US is shit hot - we have a track off the album on their new compilation CD with magazine.

From the countries you've played which have been your favourites ?

I would say all the countries we have played , we have enjoyed all of them.

Any funny or weird stories from tours , gigs etc .. you'd like to share with us ?

Mad stories ... going back to the early 80's ..we saw Roman Jugg in our town , we made him pay our new demo and get us all a cup of tea ... when we played Boston the Dropkick Murphy's were filming their new video next door we told them what time we were on and they stopped filming to come and watch our set .. another story , my brother drove the van straight over the border point into Switzerland !

What's next for Foreign Legion ?

We want to start work on the next studio album in November/December , we want to put out a live album this year and play all over the world if the mrs's let us go haha

Any messages Marcus ?

Sean , thanks a lot for the interview mate , pleasure. Big hello to all the labels , zines , bands , friends , promoters etc .. who have been there for us over the last 23 years .. see you soon !

And thanks to you Marcus for doing the interview . appreciated mate , nice one ! Good luck with the new recordings and I hope everything goes great for you lads in the future .. keep up the great work ! And fingers crossed yer missus let's yer tour the world haha !!! And seriously people if you haven't got your mitts on a copy of the Legion's new full length then make an effort cos it's a helluva listen !!

FOREIGN LEGION

SOUTH WALES FINEST !!



Well I found Publik Waste on My Space and liking what I read about them thought that I'd ask if they'd be up for an interview in the 'zine , they got back to me sharpish and said they'd be interested so here we go
Malta's own Publik Waste ...

So when and why did Publik Waste form ? And where did the name of the band come from and who come up with it ?
Publik Waste was formed by Denis , Jason and Owen in 2005 , later on Geneva joined the band as a front girl. The name of the band means the rejects of society or the social scum as the posh people of the elite call us.

What's the current line up and who does what in the band ? Originally you had a female vocalist how come she left and did you look for another female vocalist to replace her ?

Geneva left the band due to her studies abroad. The band didn't search for another female vocalist and the current line up consists of Denis - Vox/Guitar , Jason - Drums , Owen - Bass/Backing Vox and Ray - Guitar. The sound and style is now more aggressive than before as our sound had to compliment the melodic voice of Gen.

What bands do you listen to and which would you say have been the biggest influence on your music / lyrics ?

We listen to different stuff but mostly it's European underground Streetpunk/Oil.

How would you best describe the sound of Publik Waste and what the band stands for ? Who comes up with the lyric's or is it a joint effort between all of you ? And where do the idea's for them come from ? Do you sing in English ?

Our sound has hints of Cock Sparrer and The Last Resort and the lyric's are a band effort. The idea's come from what's going on around us. We sing mainly in English but we do have some in our native Maltese language. Basically we stand for the issues that concern our society. We're part of the Anti Fascist Movement. We try to be objective as much as we can but sometimes close minded people mistake us for left wing terrorists or even right wing racists !! Haha we have dedicated a song to them called "Stupid Fools". We stand strongly against the abuse of power and injustice.

Have you got a favourite Publik Waste song , if so which one and why ?

Up to now we can say that our 2 favourite songs are "Bootboys" which is about our social life and "Requiem For Democracy" which is about the bullshit propaganda in favour of war that some well paid mercenaries from the media try to feed us.

Have any of you been in bands before or currently in other bands ?

We're all in other bands .. here goes the list ...Denis - Riotous Future / Major Suspects , Jason - Major Suspects , Owen - Organized Disorder and Ray - Subculture / Abstrass / R.A.S. / X - Vandals. Denis and Ray have been in other bands that aren't going anymore.

Have you played many gigs since you formed ? How have they gone ?

Up to now we've played a handful of gigs because there's a lack of venues that accept our type of music. The gigs we played went down well with the crowd and a sizeable following is beginning to form.

I gotta be honest and say that I have never heard of any Maltese bands , are there many ? Can you name some and tell us about them ?

In the Punk scene there's around 12 active bands at the moment due to the others dis-banding. Punk was started in Malta back in 1979 by Abstrass who are still going today. The Maltese music scene is dominated by Metal and Alternative Rock , there's over 100 bands for sure who are currently doing the rounds. Our Streetpunk/Oil scene is still in its infancy , there's only 2 bands , which are Publik Waste and Riotous Future. The other's are into Anarcho , Ska or Pop Punk.

And what's the scene like where you live ? Malta as a whole ? has it changed much over the years ?

Malta is an open country but because of our smallness we suffer from lack of opportunities. To make ourselves heard we use the internet. But we haven't got a music industry or even an underground one !! In Malta we have NGO's who flirted with the Punk scene , some were even formed from the ashes of defunct bands. We see this cycle as the new generation of Punks 14 - 18 years old who are going back to the roots of Punk and Hardcore. I hope that they continue this way cos we really don't dig the American Pop Punk bands.

Does everyone , including the bands get on within the scene ? Do many people turn out to gigs and is the crowd a good mix of Punks , Skins etc .. ?

Our gigs consist of a mixture of Punks , Skins , Metalheads and those who just come for the buzz and the beer. As one might expect not everyone gets along with each other but it's one in a million that a fight breaks out. Most of the gig goers are open minded and like the buzz we create.



What's your hopes / ambitions for the band ? Have you been into the studio yet ? Are there any releases on the horizon ? We hope that at the end of the year we will go into the studio to record our debut CD album. Our ambitions are to bring more people into our scene and get them involved in our beliefs.

You're on My Space , what do you think of it ?

Ha ha ! They say My Space is owned by a multi millionaire capitalist .. we just don't give a fuck , we use it to establish contacts and share views and make friends with other groups and individuals around the globe.

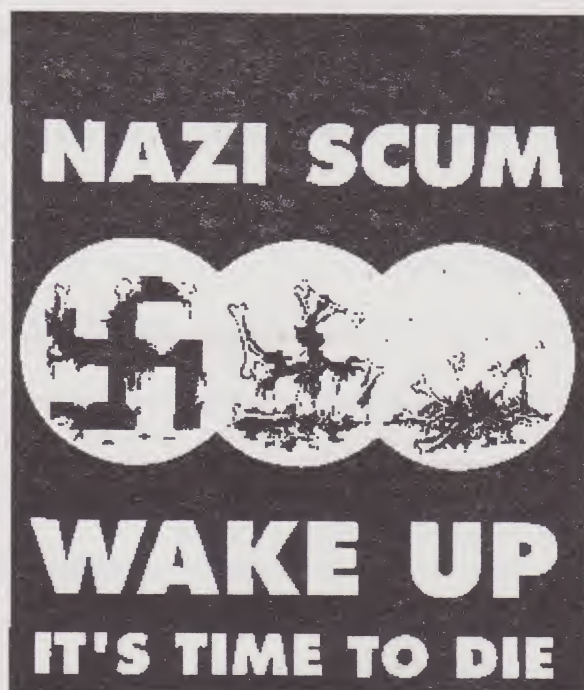
What's next on the agenda for Publik Waste ?

On our agenda we plan more gigs , as many as possible cos it's the only way that the Maltese youth can see us , the media will never give us a chance. There's also a chance that we might play a couple of gigs abroad.

Any messages ?

Thanks Sean and Oil Warning for the opportunity you've given us to make ourselves heard. Cheers from Malta !

And thanks to Ray and the lads of Publik Waste for taking the time to answer the questions , cheers !! All the best for the future and I look forward to hearing something by Publik Waste in the not too distant future ..



THE FALLOUT

Well I had caught an earful of The Fallout on a coupla occasions and I'd liked what I'd heard so when Randy Insurgence told me that they'd just brought out a new CD on 'Insurgence Records' and that he was going to interview them and would I be up for publishing it I fair snapped his hand off , so here we go with Randy asking the questions and Byron supplying the answers ...

For those not familiar with The fallout , how about telling us what you guys sound like ? I've seen reviews that compare the band to The Clash , SLF and even Leatherface ..

Those are all good. We're definatley a product of the bands we grew up with. DOA is another band that inspires us. We've always played fast , high energy Punk Rock. We like the melodic feel of SLF and you hear that in current bands like Dropkick Murphy's and The Briggs.

The Fallout were recently picked as 'one of the most fascinating vegetarians' by Veg News magazine , along with people like Stella McCartney and this honour ?!

You know , I never thought our songs of animal advocacy would catch anyone's attention. Being a vegetarian for over 20 years now I hardly give it a second thought. When , by chance , our line up became all vegetarian it seemed a good time to pen some songs on the subject. As advance copies of the new CD got out we found this incredible reception from the animal advocacy and vegetarian communities. It's great to see Streetpunk being well received by new audiences. There seems to be a growing acceptance of vegetarianism by Punks. Many years ago it was somewhat stigmatized by a 'hippie' or 'flower child' generalization. So the connection between Punk sensibilities and the issues of animal advocacy is a more recent phenomenon. But I still don't think we're fascinating.

You've got a new CD out called "Dismantlement" on 'Insurgence Records'. Is there a concept behind the title ? Any particular reason for calling the CD "Dismantlement" ?

Dismantlement is the theme of Erik Marcus' latest book 'Meat Market' which is an honest look at animal advocacy and it's supporters. It strives to promote the idea of 'Dismantlement' as the beginning point , analogous as abolition is to civil rights , for animal advocacy. Erik feels we should be able to agree , both vegetarian and non-vegetarians , that the current factory farming practices are cruel and inhumane. As a first step , compassionate people should all be able to agree that cruelty to farm animals has to come to an end. You don't need to stop eating meat to be able to understand this point of view. We took the idea of dismantlement as a theme throughout the CD to include any exploitive situation that needs to be taken apart. I think Punk is the perfect soundtrack for a discussion of real steps to be taken to affect real changes anywhere in society.

In the song "In This Land" you modestly describe yourselves as 'just another Punk Rock band'. So what is it that makes you guys just Punk ? .. attitude ? hairstyle ? lack of musical prowess ? ethics ?

Definatley the hairstyles !! We are perhaps a mature band that has no illusion or delusion , for that matter , about becoming Rock stars. So many bands have made Punk a commercially viable product that I think Punk has lost some of its dangerousness. We strongly believe in the DIY , think for yourself approach to music. We have a great relationship with 'Insurgence Records'. We'd like to see a stronger independent music scene in Canada with bands networked together , working toward common interests , supporting each other. We like to work with like minded bands that don't need big companies or big studios to get their music out there. We see Punk as a community , not a product. That's what makes us Punk.

Okay , so having said that , what's your take on a band like Anti-Flag who left their own label and 'independent' label , 'Fat Wreck Chords' for 'RCA' ? According to Anti-Flag , their decision to go to a major label was based solely on the 'RCA's ability to spread the Anti-Flag message , to allow the band to go beyond preaching to the converted .. any thoughts ?

Basically , it's bullshit ! If they were being completely honest they would admit they are trying to make a 'career' for themselves. There is nothing wrong with making a living from your band , but this pretext of 'spreading the message' isn't believable. I mean , it's wonderful if music inspires anyone to act. But there are simpler , more direct ways to affect change than by becoming a commercially viable business.

What are some of the Canadian bands then that you're interested in networking with ? What Canadian bands would you suggest checking out and why ?

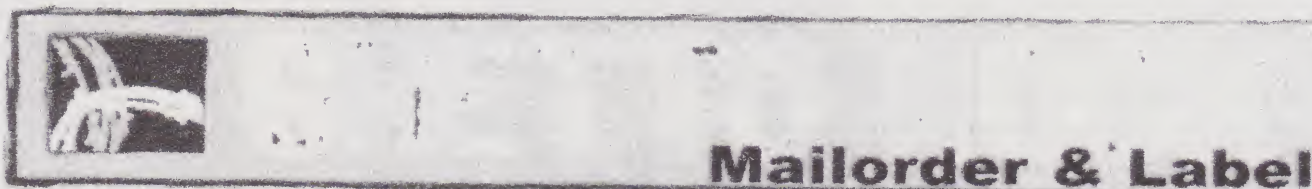
I think there are a number of great independent Canadian bands including The Class Assassins , Angels Saints & Heroes , The Rebel Spell , The Prowlers , Broadcast Zero , The Embarrassments and The Rotten. These bands represent a variety of Punk styles and work very hard to keep independent music alive and out of the hands of those who would corrupt it. It's hard to tour Canada without the support of other bands and local scenes. Creating supportive networks makes it possible for more bands to get the exposure they deserve and keep the flames of Punk alive and well.

In a recent interview , Brian Baker (ex Minor Threat and now guitarist for political Punks Bad Religion) said that Bad Religion deals in 'infotainment' rather than entertainment. Would you say the same idea applies to The Fallout ? Do you see yourselves more as entertainers or educators ?

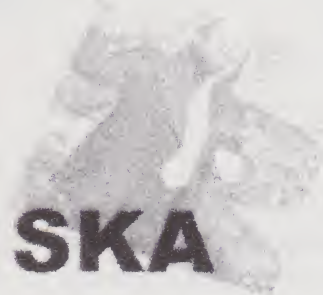
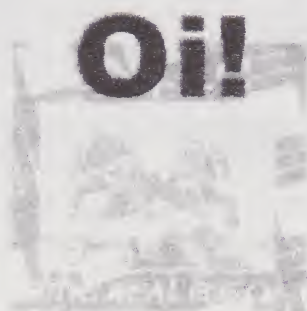
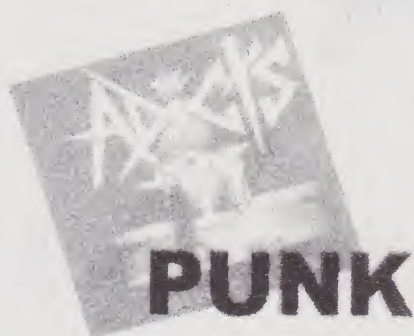
The Fallout is a collective expression of our creative spirit. Our audience may be entertained , inspired or enraged. Our songs

are our art. If it encourages anyone to learn more about the issues that affects us all, that's great but we're not out there to lecture anyone. And if you just want to dance, then that's fine too.

Thanks to Randy Insurgence for the interview, nice one mate and very much appreciated. And cheers also to Byron for answering the questions.. hope all goes well in the future and I look forward to hearing the new CD soon!



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Well Stoney of Keyside Strike sent me their latest CD to review and after listening to it , and loving it ! , I thought an interview would definatley be in order !! So off went a bunch of questions and back came the answers Take it away Stoney ...

You formed back in 2003 as a 3 piece didn't you ? Can you tell us how you got together and give us a brief history of the band ?

We formed back in '03 as a way of me airing the tunes I'd carried on writing after I moved up North and left Lowlife UK. I had a couple of years off and was really itchin' to get back at it. I talked to a few mates and started to get things in motion. First show was in January '04 in Newcastle. It's been like 'Hardcore Psycho Tap' ever since ! haha .. The usual bout of line up changes , but hopefully we're set in stone now. We're all on the same page musically and just enjoy it for what it is. It's Punk first n foremost , loadsa fun and better than watchin' BIG FRIGGIN' BROTHER !!

Where'd the name Keyside Strike come from and who thought of the name ? Was it the first name you come up with or did you have a few other ideas ?

The name is a bit of a story. I knew we had to have an original name coz with MySpazz and internerd etc .. names get repeated all over the place. It's happened to me twice before so , original had to be best ! Now , all my old bands have , for some reason , been workin' backwards through the alphabet. (Nailbomb , then Mindfield (Anti-System but not for long) , the Lowlife ..) so I decided that the name would start with a K what ever it was gonna be. So I had a list with Krewsers , Kurb Krawlers , Krewmen (already used) , Kretins etc .. coz I figured if it was spelt wrong it was less likely to be taken as well y'see ? Eventually I got Keyside , North east connection ? Like it says coz we're a North East band , but it's lackin' something .. think , think .. I had about 4 songs written about unions , labour issues and strikes coz it'd been something I was interested in and at some point it got connected in my head and that was it ! It's original , can have lots of meanings , from union to military to martial arts even. Believe me I've had loads of folks ask about it. So it works don't it ? Good name , I think so anyhow.

You were all in bands before Keyside Strike , can you run us through 'em and are any of you in other bands at the moment other than Keyside Strike ?

Right other bands .. get a chair

Stoney - Lowlife UK , Oil/Hardcore before it was scene haha , Mindfield became Anti-System reformed but fell apart again. Nailbomb UK , Hardcore mob. Ravin' Rambo's , liked by 'Maximum Rock 'n' Roll' but that was about all !

Big Neil Mortal - currently Tears To Glory , the Sacriston Oil/Core (Herbert) warlords ! (very good tho !) , 2 Z Up Punktastic covers ! Ramona , a Ramones covers band plus the Immortal Acoustic Nightmare !!!!

Goat - The hell that was Goatsniffer ! and Death Metallers Nemain.

J'Belts'um - currently with all the following .. Stockton's Psycho stalwarts The Hangmen , new CD just released , the Newcastle chaos mongers The Shits and also 'the North East's answer to The Cramps on cheaper drugs !' The Burning Hells .. he's a busy lad our Mr. Belts'um !!

Your influences range from old school NYHC through to Streetpunk to Oil to Psychobilly .. would you say there's elements of all these in your music ?

The influences I'd say are all in there somewhere. NYHC is my main influence I s'pose. Just how I write stuff , since 90% of the stuff we play is from me. But I've been a Punk/Hardcore freak for 25 odd years. I first heard Agnostic Front in '84 , and Bad Brains around the same time but I was into The Exploited , Discharge , English Dogs and the old school Psychobilly stuff etc .. before that. Plus old school Metal , Thrash Metal etc .. When the whole Crossover scene kicked off in '85 I was taken for life ! Ludichrist , Murphy's Law (of course !) , Crumbsuckers , the Venice scene with Suicidal , Excel , DRI from texas , the Straight Edge bands that came through later etc etc .. !! Just too many great bands ! It all makes us

what we are !

And which bands do you listen to ? Who would you say have influenced you the most , musically or otherwise ?

Who do we listen to ? Jesus , see the last question .. Mortal's been on a Varukers/Sick On The Bus trip for about 6 months now. Goat is the Metal freak , Metallica , Megadeth (the old stuff in both cases) , Discharge , Assert , Prodigy. Belts'um has a fondness for Gorilla Biscuits and old Metal like Saxon , his eclectic tastes rival my own ! Me ? Well everything from AC/DC to ZZ Top , stoppin' off at Mastadon , Nekromantix , Wreckin' Dead (very good Psychobilly/Oil mix) , Misfits/Samhain/Danzig , Peter & The Test Tube Babies. Plus of course our North East Unity bro's Gimpfist , Loudmouth and Tears To Glory (that goes for all of us to be fair). Demon City Wreckers and Left For Dead , old Ska , 'Bosstones , Streetdogs. I like loads of stuff ! No rules in my house , if it's good it's on !! One of my biggest influences personally is New Model Army , not so much musically , but the attitude , it's a tribe with the followers. A real family or it was when I was followin' 'em way back when. They're really good people and very 'pro-fan' , if ya know what I mean ? They always took care of the folks that put themselves out for the band. I always respected that , still do ! Plus for me Septic Death will always be somewhere on the playlist !!

Looking at you're My Space page you seem pretty busy on the gig front , is playing live the best thing about being in a band would you say ?

Gig ? We're lucky that we're pretty flexible and when gig offers come in we can usually sort something out. The gigs are what it's all about. There's no point lockin' yourselves into a practice room for ever. Who's gonna hear your stuff ? What's the point ? It's all about getting' out there !! Havin' fun and playin' the songs !

What's a typical Keyside Strike gig like ? Do the crowd have a favourite song ?

There's no typical gig really. But we like to have a venue , some people to listen and watch , electric to make the noise that bit louder .. haha. We've played all over the place at some pretty diverse spots . pubs , nightclubs , colleges , a tattoo convention , a fashion show (!) , a 40th birthday ! we ain't fussy !! Favourite songs are "Hit Me Again" .. "Old School" , "Goin' Postal" , "Craig Street" is always an attention grabber. I say "Hit Me Again" .. is our best song tho' , it's just got that bit more to it. Catchy , dynamic , a solo I'm really pleased with , lot's of reasons and people just seem to take to it. Plus I always dedicate it to Jason ! I worked hard on writing it , does it show ?? haha.

You played with Boston's legendary Gang Green , what was that like ?

Playin' with Gang Green was a priviledge. Havin' Chris stand on the stage and tell the crowd that we were the best band he's seen in years was one of our proudest moments. We're all fans , and havin' to refuse to take money from Rockin' Bob Cencil for one of our CD's was bizarre ! he was insisting I take his money ! I mean it's Bob cencil , he wrote "This Is My World" ! I ain't takin' his money !! I was proud to give the CD to him coz he wanted it ! And I'm from fuckin' Yorkshire ! I am tight personified !! Just a great night , I'd played with 'em when I was in Lowlife but it meant even more this time around.

And you've also plyed with the likes of Murphy's law , 4 Past Midnight , Sick 56 , Stuntface etc .. which bands have impressed you ?

Bands to play with ? Jimmy G is my bro , so Murphy's Law is always a great gig. He's hands down the best frontman in Punk , possibly at all , on his night. Just a great 'cold blooded entertainer and a warm hearted human being !' as Dicky Barret put it so well ! Sick On The Bus have Biff , who is just somethin' else ! Wildman on Punk that lad , very funny and good company. Charlie and The Subs of course , there was a possibility that we'd playin' with The Stranglers but it ended up being The Buzzcocks , still good , but I mean , fuckin' hell , The Stranglers !!!!! That would've been something. Again tho' , our North East crew is always , always a great night ! We've got another 'Unity' night this weekend (August 11th) can't wait !!

From the gig's you've played to date , has there been a favourite and / or a worst one ?

Favourite show has to be headlinin' 'The Nice & Sleazy Festival' in Morecambe this year. The whole weekend was a huge piss up and we played the gig of our lives. We loved it , the crowd loved it , the promoter (Ivan) and his team loved it , just a great moment ... worst gig .. there's been a couple of bad ones .. the gigs where the promoter doesn't put any flyers out that are always great aren't they ? .. or the ones where equipment conspires against you .. but the worst ones are always the gigs where you know while you're playin' that a certain member is gonna get 'the talkin' to' after the gig ! The ones where one person talks and the other person listens , quietly .. it's always down to me coz I do the graft , so when there's some big issue to resolve , it's me that gets the shit to shovel. I've got a thick skin tho ! I'm glad that's all done with now I tell ya ! telling somebody you've played shows with that they're out is fuckin' crap I tell ye ! NOT FUN !

If you had the chance to play with any band , past or present , who would it be and why ?

Dream gig .. right then .. it's gotta be a festival for a start !!!

Misfits - '81 line up. When it was Danzig , Doyle , Googey and Only !

Bad Brains - '82 style !

Mighty Mighty Bosstones - reformed with Nate Albert and Kevin Linear back !

Murphy's law - '96 line up or with Todd Youth and add Benny Schwartz now that would really be a line up !

Demon City wreckers - To have my buddy back and go for the drink we never got..

And us .. Keyside Strike ! Plus The Dead Pets on first , coz Sweeney would wangle on anyway. I might even squeeze the original Lowlife line up in as well coz I've not seen Cat or Metal Ing in ages ! Basically us and all the bands I wish I'd sen in their glory ! Apart from the 'Bosstones and The Dead Pets who are just mates I don't get to see much anymore .. great bands tho' ! D'ya reckon there'd be a decent turn out ?!

You must of seen a fair few funny things at gigs , wanna share a couple with us ?

Funny things at gigs ? God help ya .. Morecambe was a laugh right from start to finish .. our drummer (coz he's a PROPER drummer haha !) didn't believe we were camping , so he arrived at my place with no sleeping bag , tent , supplies , clothes .. NOWT ! My 'tent' was more like a carrier bag with 2 bamboo sticks inside it , bear in mind me and Belts'um are both over 6 foot tall ! It was freezin' and it rained , I was in a loan car from my insurance company coz my car was written off ,

so I was driving a 15 grand car instead of the usual 500 quid job ... Before we even set off me and Goat went to see my mates The Street Dogs in Newcastle and there was an 'altercation' with a bunch of chav twats. No marks on me mind you ! haha ... Just a great , mad as fuck few days ! Then we played with Red Alert the next day in Sunderland and my voice was completely fucked , for the first time ever !! It took ages to get back to normal haha .. Mortal getting' himself nicked in Italy for 5 days with The Coyote Men is another unsavoury tale ... haha



When and why did you first get into Hardcore , Punk etc .. ? And what does it mean to you to be involved and whats kept you involved over the years ?

Me and Mortal have been on the scene for bloody ages ! We are officially dinosaurs !! (In Mortal's case a VERY BIG dinosaur !!) .. I first got into it around 1982/'83. Mortal was around the same time of the first wheel haha it's just a way of life for some of us. I can't think of anything that is as rewarding , not with money , but friends , fun , drink and travel. For me music has got me friends who will be friends forever. It's got me some priviledges that I hold very dear. I've been on stages in some pretty famous places , experiences I will never ever forget. Things you just can't buy .. it's not something I can explain really and truly. It's the bug that bit ! The future is lookin' more positive than ever , the scene seems really alive right now !

What's your opinion on the state of the current UK scene ? And how would you like to see it go in the future ?

As above the scene now seems more alive than ever. But no doubt , as always it'll reach a level then fall away again. It always does , it's on maybe the third or fourth peak now. Some of us stay every time , and there's a few of the newer kids who turn out to be sincere and stick around. Happens everytime , it's a bit of a game for us old school types to try and spot the ones that really mean it y'know ? It might seem a bit harsh to say , but , trust me it's happened more than enough times. The noisiest drum very often has nothin' inside it ...

What do you think the best and worst things are about todays scene ?

Best thing about todays scene ? More gigs than for a while ... and the worst ? Screamo - black & red pain in the arse flash in the pans !!! (No offense meant to 'em or owt like .. haha).

You've released two CD's in "Grin & Bear It" and "Hit Me Again" .. how are they doing and what kinda feedback you had on them ? Were you personally happy with the outcome of them ?

Our CD's have gone really well. The first one .. "Grin And Bear It" .. was as good as we could possibly have done it at the time. Due to limitations in the line up. No fault of theirs but there's some stuff on there that needed some real work to get anything like what I was after. But for what it is I was really pleased. Some of it is really good , and some of the songs are really strong. I play it myself so it can't be that bad can it ? It's nearly sold out now as well , folks seemed to like it so it must be okay ! "Hit Me Again" .. is much more powerful sounding. The playing is better , the songs are stronger I think. It's just that bit better all round , as it should be ! I think the progression is very obvious in the sound of the two CD's , but it's all a building process. But we're really happy with the way it came out. I think it's the best thing I've done so far anyway ! The next one will be even better I hope !!

You've also got a track on the Tribute to Jason CD/DVD on 'Hairball8 Records' , can you tell us a bit more about that ?

"The Tribute To Jason" on the .. "For Blood" CD was/is something that is very important to me personally. Jason was a guy I used to chat with on My Space all the time. He was (still is someplace !) a fan of ours and likewise we were/are into Demon City Wreckers , it's a very similar mind set but we're from the Hardcore side and they're from the Psychobilly side. Psy-Core ! We were in the process of setting up a tour for what would have been early Summer this year ('07) , for us and

Demon City Wreckers when he got sick. It was weird , all of a sudden the mails just stopped then 10 days later I got a mail from Scott from DCW sayin' what was goin' on. Very sad time .. so when the compilation CD came out we were straight there. The weird thing is we were rehearsing the DCW tribute before we knew he was ill , it was gonna go on the end of our CD like it is now anyway as a surprise for my friend. So we decided to put it on "Hit Me Again" .. as well for the tribute coz it's a Psychobilly song anyway. Just a big fat hard as nails Rock 'n' Roll song ! I know he'd of loved that track , it burns that he never got to hear it. He'd have been so stoked with it. When Left For Dead first heard it they were getting' ready to record there trax in the studio and they were freakin' out coz of how it came out. The Tribute version is a slightly different version to our CD. It's all semi acoustic (them big fuck off things like Brian Setzer and BB King use !) guitars , and it just has somethin' about it. I don't know .. we're goin' to Europe next year with Left For Dead (DCW's heirs !) and Stitch Hopeless and The Sea Legs in April '08 to spread the Psy-Core gospel !!

Where can people get hold of your merchandise ?

Folks can get our merch via our website or our My Space site. Go to www.myspace.com/keysidestrikehc or www.keysidestrike.co.uk we've got payapl or a cheque will be fine just email or message us. All the mail order stuff goes out with freebies , as you can attest good sir !! haha

Any other releases on the horizon Stoney ?

Other releases are in the works. Including a track on the "Louder Faster Rules" compilation in America , the "Punktastic Un Scene" compilation of 30 msecond songs , about 4 more compilations worldwide plus a new album by Christmas if it kills us haha !! We're gonna see about getting' a label to put out some stuff out oversea's too. There's a couple of possibilities , but as always , nothin' definite !

What's next for Keyside Strike ?

Plans ? Gigs , a couple of shows to play , a concert we might even get a practice in ! Seriously tho' , we're gonna get stuck into writing some new stuff. There's a few idea's and lots of lyrics. It just needs polishin' up and sorting out ! Then Europe and maybe America next year. We could've gone this year but no label and no money .. bit of a problem that !!

What 3 words best sum the band ?

3 words to sum up Keyside Strike ? ... BRING BACK BREWTALITY ! (That do ya ? ..)

Any messages ?

Any messages ? Oh yeah .. Buy our stuff !!!! Promoters BOOK US ! COME TO OUR GIGS !!!! But if ya want a soft , easy listening , Punk covers band .. well sorry can't help ya ! We're here to spread some real honest , no frills Hardcore , Psycho , Punk , Oi! 'n' Roll ! No pretensions of grandeur , just honest sweat and a love of the stuff we do ! Can't say fairer than that ! Go Psy-Core and we'll see ya in't pit ! Cheers !

Cheers to Stoney for doing the interview , nice one mate and much appreciated !! Keep up the great work and look forward to hearing more of Keyside Strike , or catching yer live , in the near future !!

MORE SOUND OF THE SUBURBS

BARSE - WWW.MYSPACE.COM/BARSEFILTH

Barse - "If You Can't Fuck Them Cut 'Em Up" CD

15 Punk as fuck tracks that are catchy as hell and are in yer face and funny as fuck !! This definatley ain't for the easily upset or faint of heart but for the rest of us I reckon it could be one of the albums of the year. The music is sing along Punk at it's finest and the lyric's are some of the funniest I've heard ... definatley not the stuff to play at yer grannys birthday bash (or maybe it is haha ..) .. "Tourettes" , "My Bird" , "Voices In My Head" .. along with nearly every track on this disc are set to become classics and this CD has to be a gotta get people ! Unfortunatley Gash Flaps of the band died not long after this was recorded so I think it's a fitting tribute to go buy this disc and play it loudly and proudly !!

INDEPENDENT PROGRESS - WWW.MYSPACE.COM/INDEPENDENTPROGRESS

Independent Progress - "Far From These Shores" CD

Well to be honest I wondered what sort of music I'd be listening to when I saw the name Independent Progress .. but I needn't of worried what I heard was 13 tracks of good wholesome powerful and melodic Streetpunk that really catches the ears. Kurt and the boys supply great music that's coupled with good well thought out and well written lyrics that remind me a little of Hudson Falcons and bands of that ilk in places ... this is a good CD and definatley worth listening to people.

RAW POO - WWW.MYSPACE.COM/RAWPOO

Raw Poo - "Job Nonseeker's Unemployment" EP CD

Fuck me when this plopped thru the letterbox I thought fuckin' hell what do the dole want with me ??? Haha .. but it weren't the dole it was Raw Poo (What a fuckin name haha) .. with their brilliantly packaged CD and it kinda sets the mood for what you're about to hear which is tongue in cheek , beer fuelled , comedic Punk Rock that in the main is catchy as fuck and really does make yer chuckle in to yer pint glass .. overall a really good listen and a CD worth kopping hold of .. sing along anthems for the pissed and proud , good stuff !

RUCTIONS - WWW.MYSPACE.COM/RUCTIONSOI

Ruictions - Demo (KBP001) CD

A great 4 track demo from Irish Oi-sters The Ruictions , from the first track "Skinhead Girls" to the last "Fear Of The Dark" the lads provide you with aggressive , uncompromising Oi! music coupled with hard , gritty vocals - proper Oi! in other words. Good stuff and well worth a listen and definatley a band to keep an eye out for !!

Well the Charm City Saints are a band that epitomise what it's all about and I think they deserve a lot more recognition over this side of the pond than they actually get ... so bearing that in mind I got in touch with 'em for an interview and Ayres took time out to do it , cheers brother !

You've not long signed to 'Workers United Records' , can you tell us how that came about ?

Yeah , 'Workers United' was my label at one time. I started the label in early 2003. I brought in two partners (Belt and Doyle) to help run things because it was getting to be a lot to handle with family and work. But even then , I couldn't keep up with it so in 2006 I pretty much just backed out of the label letting my 2 buddies take it over. The Saints were talking about looking for a label to release our new CD. Belt and Doyle are really good friends and I would trust these 2 guys with my life so when they came to us and said they wanted us to release our new CD with them , it was a no brainer. Until now , we have released our own stuff. Recorded it , burned the CD's ourselves. Jesse and I bought printers that will print on the face of the CD's so we could do that ourselves also .. but again it's just very time consuming , cutting covers and making copies for such high quantity of DIY made CD's.

And I hear that you're bringing out a CD , your first for 2 years , can you tell us about that ? What can we expect and how would you say it compares to your previous stuff ?

We are actually in the studio right now working on it. We hope to have it out for March 2008. We've recorded stuff between now and then , stuff for movie soundtracks and compilation CD's .. but this is the first official release since the "Never Go Home Again" EP came out. Mike Bossier , the engineer we are working with , is great. Just having him working with us is making this recording session sound really nice. He has a great ear. The production on this CD is going to blow away the EP. We have 16 tracks laid down right now and that looks like that is going to end up on the CD , so that is just about an hours worth of music , compared to the 11 minutes of music on the EP ... this CD is going to have a pretty good mix of originals and re-arranged trad songs on it also .. I think people are going to dig it.

And how come it's been 2 years between releases , any particular reason?

Basically , because we all have jobs and bills to pay , mouths to feed .. trying to scrounge money to record is tough when you have to worry about putting food on the table for your family ...



Apart from the new label and CD is there anything else that's new with the band ?

Kids .. I blame it on the piss poor TV programming in the States .. Jesse and his wife just had a baby. My wife and I just had another baby , Kev and his wife are having a baby in December and we just found out that Damon and his wife are having another baby in early 2008..

Going back , can you tell us when and why the band got together ? And where'd the name Charm City Saints come from ?

I started Charm City Saints in October of 2003 as a side project when I was still with the Mobtown Hooligans because there had been some talk of the Hooligans splitting up. As for names .. Baltimore , the city we come from has a few nicknames . Mobtown and Charm City are 2 of them.

Can you introduce us to the band members and tell us who does what in the band ? Has this always been the line up or have you had a few changes since you started out ?

Ayres - Guitar , Kevin - Guitar , Jesse - Vocals , Damon - Drums , Piper Mike - Highland Bagpipe , Jeff - Tin Whistle / Fiddle , Bodhron - Bouzouki / Button Accordion/Mandolin. We haven't had many member changes really. We had an old singer who was also the lead guitarist before Jesse and Kev .. and Jim left for a bit but he's back now .. other than that this has been the line up.

Are there times when you fall out with each other or get on each others nerves ? Any of you got any bad habits that you wanna spill the beans about ?

We all get along pretty good , we kid around and fuck with each other all the time , it keeps it fun .. I can't really remember a time (with the current line up) that there has been any issues or fights between any of us .. although there are 3 Star Wars nerds in the band .. and that is kinda ghey but other than that .. no nothing ..

Have any of you been in , or currently in , other bands ?

Like I said earlier I was in the Mobtown Hooligans with Piper Mike and Damon and I were in a Hardcore band together that I started years ago called Next Step Up .. Jesse was in a Metal band called Under Every Stone and Jim was in a Metal band called Samadhi , Jim is also in

Together We Fall with Damon. Kev, Damon and Jeff have a pub band going called Last Nights Whiskey .. and I have been talking with Aaron the original bass player of Next Step Up about doing something with him and our friend Tony (who owns 'Celebrated Summer Records') who was in Daybreak and Never enough ..

What bands do you listen to ? And which would you say have most influenced Charm City Saints ?

Bands I like these days are The Whiskey Rebels, Neck, Tommy Gutless, Maddog Surrender, Far From Finished and Everybody Out. but I listen to anything from DK's, The Misfits, Crass, The 4 Skins, Last Resort, Ramones to Napalm Death, All Out War, Black Sabbath, xChorusx, Madball to The Clancy Brothers, Chieftans, Levellers, Pogues .. we all have similar tastes in music Metal, Trad, Punk, Hardcore and Ska .. as far as bands that influenced us, pretty much anything and everything we have ever listened to, I just can't nail it down to a few bands..



Is there a song or songs that you're particularly proud of writing ? if so which one(s) and why ?

I am proud of everything we have done, I wouldn't be on stage playing it if I wasn't proud of it.

Is there a main songwriter or do you all pitch in ?

Everyone in the band has a hand in writing and usually it's a group effort. Some songs there is one person who writes it and others we all pitch in, mainly Damon and I do the arrangement but everyone has their input and say. Early on in the band I would say I wrote most of the riffs and our old singer and I wrote the lyrics together. But now, Damon, Kev and Jesse have been handling the lyrics. But even that is a group effort, everyone has some input on something. I would say it's definatley more of a band writing process now than just one person saying "here I wrote this song, now play it" ..

Do you play shows on a regular basis ? What's a typical Charm City Saints show like ?

We try to play as much as we can. Sometimes that is only 4 times a year, sometimes it's 4 times a month. We have 7 guys in the band who all have jobs and families. We try to schedule shows around our real lives. It's worked out pretty well for us so far .. a typical Charm City Saints show .. I hope people go away feeling they got their moneys worth, we try our hardest to put on a good show .. there is a lot of energy and a lot of booze.

Has there been a favourite show so far, if so which one and why ? If you were putting on a show what 5 bands would you have on and why them bands ?

The last time we played with the Street Dogs, Mike said a lot of nice things about us to the crowd while they were on stage, that was kinda cool .. but I think our St. Patrick's Day shows are my favourite. We usually sell out of Guinness in 20 minutes and we play for about 2 hours which is almost unheard of at Punk Rock shows .. my dream show ? That's tuff, I listen to so many different styles of music I can't narrow it down to just 5 .. I might be able to narrow it down to 5 per genre ..

Oil – Cockney Rejects, The 4 Skins, Blitz, Section 5 and Sham 69.

Ska – Symarip, Madness, The Charmers, The Hot Rod Allstars and The Specials.

Punk – Screeching Weasel, GBH, Descendants, The Clash and Dead Kennedys.

Hardcore – Cro-Mags, Judge, Gut Instinct, Minor Threat and Killing Time.

Christ, I could go on and on

Do you play many outta town/state shows ? How would you say they compare with hometown shows ?

Yeah, we try to get outta town as much as we can, outta toen shows are fun. It's a chance to play infront of new people, maybe people who have never heard or seen you before, it's cool to meet kids from other states and hang out .. but then again hometown shows kick ass. It's just nice to be able to play in Baltimore.

Have you got a favourite venue / bar ?

Favourite venues .. 'The Sidebar' and 'The Ottober', they are great Punk clubs .. Favourite bar .. 'J.Patricks' ..

What's your opinion on the US scene and what would you say are the best and worst things about it ?

I think overall there is still a lot of scene division. Meaning you don't see many cross genre shows anymore .. I can't really comment on the

US as a whole but in Baltimore it seems that all the Metal bands play together , all the Punk bands play together and all the Hardcore bands play together.. to me that is just boring .. people should give new music a chance and open their minds to something that's different. We try to play with different types of bands when we can. I think it keeps it interesting and makes for a chance to gain some new fans .. I am not going to go off on some rant of how the scene was better 'back in the day' .. I think for the most part you can find pro's and cons about the scene at any given time..

And what bands around in the States at the moment do you like ? Any up 'n' coming bands we should be looking out for ?

I really dig The Whiskey Rebels , they have a good blend of stuff going on music wise and just fucking nice guys all round .. Big Daddy Chrome , DUI , Hell To Pay , Guns On The Run , Tommy Gutless , Maddog Surrender.

Have you ever played outside the States ? Any chance that you might get to Europe / UK ?

With this band , no not yet. Older bands I was in toured Europe. It was great .. we have talked about it and if we can find someone willing to work with us we'd love to try to get over for a week or 2 .. it's hard with families and work .. but if everything falls in to place then it could work.

What's the plan for the band in the future ?

Just to keep doing what we are doing , we are having fun .. we have the new CD that should be out in early 2008 and I hope we can play a few more shows to support the CD next year .. try to get to Europe and/or Japan.

What got you into Oi! , Punk , Hardcore .. and what's kept you involved ?

Skateboarding got me into Punk back in the mid-80's. I remember skating to Black Flag , Misfits , DK's and Minor Threat tapes. You buy records and read the liner notes , see the bands those bands thanked and check them out .. then I started to find out about shows that people were doing in basements and firehalls and started going to them .. I have always been involved with something , either labels and distro's , zines and bands .. I've grown up in the scene and that is pretty much all I know ..

What's your favourite record/CD in your collection ?

That's a hard question to answer .. I have been selling off my records for the last couple of years but I have a pile of stuff that I said I would never sell .. I was a record collector for a long time and I listen to so much stuff it would be hard to pick just one , I know that sounds like a cop out but it depends on my mood that day and something that was my favourite record 10 years ago may not be today ..

Any messages ?

Yeah , just wanted to thank you Sean for soing the interview with us , do whatever you have to do to keep this scene moving forward , start a band or a label or a zine , book shows and keep Punk alive ..

And cheers to you Ayres for taking time out to answer the questions , much appreciated mate . All the best with the bands and I'm really looking forward to hearing the new CD as well as hopefully seeing you play over here sometime in the future !!!



ISSUE 7 OF 'OI! WARNING' WILL BE OUT IN APRIL 2008 AND WILL FEATURE -----

Evil Conduct , Bare Knuckle Saints , Kriminal Pogo , Urban Scum , Degeneration , Subculture , Iron City Hooligans , Pressure 28 , Mike/8 Piece Records , Mark/Koi Records , Tromatized Youth , Senza Tregua , Death In Custody , Steve DIY/Streetvoice , The Barons , Smash Points , Fear City , Ciurma Skins , Howitzer and Automatica Aggrezzione

MAKE SURE YOU GET YOURS !!!



Well I read an interview with The Blackriver Boys in 'G.S.S.' 'zine a while back and thought they sounded like a solid bunch of fella's .. so I got in touch and after a few emails with Dru a few questions were sent and here are the guy's answers

Well basically Blackriver Boys are 3 ex-members of Shotgun Solution plus 1 or 2 others ain't it ? Whose in the band these days and what do they do ?

DRU - Actually now there are just 2 of us , Aaron and myself. Ryan (Drummer) and Jerome (Bassist) came on at the start of Blackriver Boys a year ago. After some changes , AK-Ray (Guitar) came on board to complete the line up.

Seeing as most of you were in Shotgun Solution why the name change and where'd the new name come from ?

DRU - We wanted a new direction in the music. With the new direction came the name. Aaron brainstormed and came up with the name and logo , it stuck. We like it.

Can you give us a brief history of the band ?

DRU - Basically we wanted a project to try something new musically. No one in the band has really played this direction. Everyday we are all doing things in the band we wouldn't normally be doing.

AARON - Also after playing in Vietnam for a few years I saw a new band as an opportunity to play whatever I wanted. Luckily most of the time the other guys like the stuff I come up with.

Apart from Blackriver Boys / Shotgun Solution have any of you been in other bands ? And are any of you involved in any side projects / other bands at the moment ?

DRU - Ryan and Aaron were together years ago in Another Round. Then Ryan went with Jerome to play together in Cerephesis , which they still do. Aaron went on to play in Vietnam where he met up with Ray. Ray is also the live guitarist for the solo project Danny Diablo. I myself messed with a few projects but nothing ever came of them until Shotgun Solution started.

Is being in a band something you always wanted to do ? And what keeps you plugging away at it despite setbacks , line up changes etc .. ?

AARON - Ever since I first picked up a guitar (about 10 years ago) I have wanted to make music. Setbacks ? Everyone has setbacks but that's what separates the dreamers from the do'ers. If you give up in the face of setbacks then you will never survive.

What kinds things do you sing about and where do the ideas for lyric's come from ? Who writes the lyric's and do they find it hard to come up with new material ?

DRU - Aaron and I write all the lyric's right now. Basically all the lyric's are written about us or things that surround us currently or from the past. We go as far as bring out our 'inner demons' I guess you could say in the writing. It's not really hard to get new material , it just has to hit us , we don't sit down and get determined to write it , it just happens.

When you formed Blackriver Boys did you bring any old Shotgun Solution with you or have you started afresh ? Do you play any covers in your set ?

DRU - We brought over one but it is being phased out. We re-wrote it and changed the melody a bit but we definatley started all over again. For the most part , most of the material , we wrote in the beginning we don't even play anymore. As

far as covers go , we have messed with a few but we still play Warzone's "Sounds Of Revolution".

What bands do you listen to and which would you say have most influenced you , musically or otherwise ? And how would you personally describe your music ?

DRU - We all listen pretty much to everything. I don't think there is a type of music that we haven't listened to at some point. All of it gives ideas for songs , but all of our songs come from us just grinding away at it until we are satisfied. We don't set out to have a particular sound for our music. We just each bring our own influence and put it together.

Have you played many shows under the new name and have you got any planned ? Any idea's when you guys might tour ? Get into Europe maybe ?

AARON - We have played quite a few shows and there are a lot more planned. We are going to be back in the studio in 2 months to get 2 more tracks done for the EP , shop the record around and see if we can pick up a few supporting slots on some tours. One step at a time ...

If you could play a show with any band , past or present , who would it be and why ?

DRU - I think we could all name a few but for the most part it's always cool to play shows with bands we are good friends with.

Florida seem's to have a whole host of great bands around at the moment , which ones do you like ? And where's the best place to catch a show and have a beer ?

AARON - Florida does have a few bands on the rise and the one I have been watching is Whole Wheat Bread , New School Punk from Jacksonville. Best place for a band and a beer ? ... Lake Mary Pub.

And what's your views on the scene in the States and where would you like to see it go in the future ?

AARON - The scene is strong in certain areas but fights and attitudes have sabotaged a lot of the better scenes in bigger cities. Always's some one with something to prove. Too many people ready to destroy the scene and not preserve it. You're on My Space , what do you think of it ? Do you think it's a good thing that everyone seem's to be on My Space / the net or do you think there's a downside ?

AARON - Unfortunatley it gives an open forum for any keyboard commando to talk tons of shit without any 'real' consequences but it does get the music , tour dates and shows out to the masses.

When and how did you get into Punk/Oil etc .. ? And what does it mean to you to be part of this scene ?

DRU - I listened to Surf punk , then my friends introduced me to everything else.

AARON - I was 14 when I was introduced to The Anti Heros and it was all down hill from there.

What do you all do for a living and what's your interests outside of the band ?

DRU - Wow , that is actually an interesting question. Aaron is a multi media specialist at the community college , I am a high school science teacher , Ryan is a custodial engineer , Jerome is currently unemployed and AK-Ray is a full time musician.

If you had to sum up each band member in 3 words what would they be ?

DRU - The Blackriver Boys , that's 3.

AARON - I have to agree.

Have you released anything so far ? Or are there any plans to release something in the not too distant future ?

AARON - Back in the studio in 2 months to finish the EP , hand it off to a few interested parties and see if we can get someone to fly our asses over to Europe.

What's The Blackriver Boys got planned for the future ?

AARON - WORLD DOMINATION !!!!

Any messages ?

AARON - Always's follow what you feel. Don't ever let anyone tell you what to make with your life. Always's go against the grain. NO FRUIT IN BEER !!!!!!!!!!!

DRU - Amen Brother !!

Cheers to Dru and Aaron for the interview , much appreciated ! Hope to hear something by The Blackriver Boys soon and it would be good to see yer play in Europe sometime !! All the best for the future...

SOME MORE REVIEW

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ACPUNK

The A.C.'s - "Caution : Contains Words , Thoughts And Ideas" CD

A decent CD from local (to me) band The A.C.'s .. it was the first time I'd heard this lot and I have to say I really liked what I heard .. straight to the point no fucking about Punk Rock ! Musically The A.C.'s remind me a lot of some of the early Anarcho bands and lyrically they make their point forcefully and well .. the lyrics are straight to the point with no pissing about which makes for a good listen .. plus they have a female and male vocalist and the 2 work well together ... I liked all 18 tracks on this disc but "Cash For Honours" , "International Cunt" , "Whitehouse Wanker" , "Divide & Conquer" , "Homophobic Nazi" and "ID Cards" were the stands out for me , definatley a disc worth hearing and a band worth checking out.

WWW.HEADACHERECORDS.COM

The Wretched Ones - "Make It Happen" CD (HR 64)

Well Armen and the boys are back , and what a fuckin stormin' release this is !! From the opening track to the last it's easy to see why The Wretched Ones are New Jersey's finest and one of the best bands around in America and the world !! Believe me when I say that there isn't one shit track on this disc they're all a fuckin' great listen and "Make It Happen" has to be one of the best releases of this year .. Hard edged Punk Rock with bollox and meaning and every one an anthem .. stirring stuff and a must get as far as I'm concerned !! Working class anthems for real working classing folks .. 'nuff said .. go get the fucker NOW !!

ESPERANZA

More than 5 years ago now , in the middle of Southern Germany , a city called Schwabisch Gmund , which is about 50 km to the East of Stuttgart , an independent youth centre was founded. After more than 1 year of running to the city government and asking for possibilities , a house was found. In the past it had been a bar , a supermarket , a pizza shop and a factory so it had more than enough space to prepare for shows and there was also rooms for a backstage area and some smaller rooms to put things like tools and cleaning stuff in , so we chose to take this building for the youth centre. A name for it was also found very fast 'Esperanza' (Spanish for hope). As I have already said it was in the middle of nowhere and there was nearly nothing to do with Punk Rock or any other subculture around at that time. The first half of the year was spent renovating the house , it was really run down. But after many hours of work it looked a lot better , not perfect but a lot better , a lot of work still had to be done - and still has to be done ! In November 2001 there was the opening party , the Mayor of the town delivered a speech and after that there was a concert with some Hip Hop , Blues Rock , Rock 'n' Roll and a Punk band , all the bands came from Schwabisch Gmund and also helped to build 'The Esperanza'. Then some Reggae and small Punk concerts followed. On the 22nd February 2002 the first big concert was held there , The Hotknives from England



entered the stage together with local Ska heroes Spicy Roots , also it was the first sold out concert and more than 100 people had to be turned away. This was the start to organise bigger concerts with bands from further away. In April of 2002 there was the first big Punk concert with Rasta Knast from Hamburg , one of the best German Punk bands at that time , Backslide from Freiburg and 2 local Punk heroes Kaputt Und Schlect and Drexschleuder. Since then there have been Punk , Reggae , Hip Hop concerts and parties with bands from all over Germany. In July 2002 New Yorks most evil Ska Punk band Leftover Crack played in Esperanza , it was the first big Punk concert with a band from the US or even from outside of Germany. Then , like every year , in August it was time to renovate the fouse - a lot of things had been done. Up to the end of 2002 bands like Rude & Visser , Dritte Wahl , Freiboiter , Kwame Prime and Scrapy joined the growing list of bands who'd played on the Esperanza stage. There was one really big event that happened on the 25th October 2002 though , the Schlachtrufe BRD tour stopped in Esperanza , one of the biggest German Punk club festival tours. It was something that Scwabisch Gmund had never seen before , nearly 300 Punks in the streets of the Conservative town of 60,000 inhabitants. Some of the top bands of German Punk played like Daily Terror , Popperklopper , SIK , Fahnenflucht , ACK ... 2003 saw everything happen under the flag of the Iraq war , the Esperanza crew organised a demonstration against the war in Schwabisch Gmund and 1,000 people attended ! An amazing number when you consider that , as I've already said , the town is small and very Conservative , so you can see what can be achieved in a year of sub cultural and political work. We had some concerts .. Punk , Surf , Rock , Reggae and a Psychobilly Freakout festival. At the beginning of July there was the first All Style Summer Festival , held in a big tent on the grounds of an institution for the disabled , it was a festival

where all styles of music could be played to a larger crowd than in the Esperanza. Also in July we held the first big Oi! concert with The Stage Bottles from Frankfurt. The rest of 2003 was full of concerts with bands like ZSK , 2 Tone Club , Rolando Random & The Young Soul Rebels , The Hotknives (again) and President Brown for all the Reggae fans. In 2004 the Esperanza was established in Schwabisch Gmund as an institution for the youth and for cultural work. The Esperanza crew do not only organise concerts and parties they also organise exhibitions , speeches and book presentations. There are too many bands who played in 2004 to mention them all , so I will just say it was a



great year ! And it also saw the second All Style Festival , there are 2 bands who played that I must mention , The Aggrolites and Rolando Random & The Young Soul Rebels , two great Skinhead Reggae/Ska bands. In September the first Anti-Fascist Oi! Festival was organised with Brigada Flores Magon and J' Aurais Voulé from France and local bands Freiboiter and Tora Bora. As I said a lot of other concerts took place in 2004. 2005 kicked off with a historic concert with Dutch band Heroes & Zeroes , they played in front of an unbelievable 9 (yes 9 !!!) people , but everyone made the best of it and it was a great party. There was 2 metre high snow so it was very hard to reach Schwabisch Gmund from abroad and other towns/cities , it was also held on a Monday. In February the local Punk legends Kaputt & Schlecht performed their last concert in Esperanza , it was sold out and was a great night and party. Over the year we hosted a lot of Ska , Punk and Reggae bands , Hip Hop was banned from the programme because of the fights that started at the Hip Hop shows. November 2005 saw the second Anti Fascist Oi! Festival , the internationally and legendary Klasse Kriminale played , after they stopped touring for a while they went on tour again and played at the Esperanza. They played together with The Stage Bottles , Freiboiter and The Navigators from France. At the end of December 2005 The hard Mods from Denmark The Movement also played in Esperanza together with the most famous local Punk Rock band The Higgins and the young Punk Rock band Rote Kapelle from a nearby village. 2005 was a very good year for Esperanza and the programme went more from German Punk to Anti Fascist Oi! - Skinhead way. 2006 went the same way as 2005 and was even better , bands like Banda Bassotti , Opcio K-95 , Obrint Pas , The Carpettes , Brixton Cats , Los Fastidios , Derkovbois , Shocks , Red Union to name but a few played there .. same as in previous years The All Style Summer Festival was held and 700 people attended , The Movement were headlining and K-Mob from Hamburg were co-headliners. We organised a second festival at the end of July , open air , but not as big as the first as it would have been too much work but it was a great festival all the same. In September Klasse Kriminale held their album release party at Esperanza (without the album because the label was slow) and also The Aggrolites came back to play along with the Hungarian Street Ska band The Last Minute. The rest of the year saw bands like The Argies , Youngang , Suspenders and Hors Controle play at the club. In November 2006 we held the 5th anniversary party with local bands like The Higgins , Primitive Society and Dancehall Satan. It was a great party with stage diving , sing alongs and circle pit while The Higgins played. In December Atarassia Grop , Brixton Cats and The Commandantes played for fans of Punk Rock and the great French Ska band Magic Lord and the mighty Drakkens played for the Ska fans. Now we are into 2007 and after most of the independent youth clubs have been shut down , before the World Cup

in 2006 , the Esperanza is one of the last places for Punk Rock in Southern Germany. Already this year bands like Los Fastidios , Red Union , The Bayonets , Analogs , Teamkiller , Tony Montanas .. have played and a lot of great concerts are planned for the future , like The Higgins 10 year party , 2 days with 20 bands , and the 2 day Open Air Festival ('Festival De Fraternite') with Patchanka , The Stage Bottles , Inner Terrestials , Cartouche , Last Minute ...



You can see how important places like Esperanza are. With such places you can show the youth that there are other possibilities other than the commercial shit and that they don't have to go to Techno disco's. And that they can be active and get involved with stuff they like to do without being told what to do and when. So get active and try to create places like Esperanza everywhere and wherever possible. We never thought that we could create somewhere like this , bringing great bands as well as local bands , into a town like Schwabisch Gmund., but we did ! Many bands have been formed here , as well as labels and some youth centres in other cities are trying to do the same as we've done. It's important to have places like Esperanza .. BUILD THEM , DEFEND THEM , FIGHT FOR THEM !!!

Some useful links - www.esperanza-gd.de and some bands from Schwabisch Gmund www.thehiggins.de , www.primitivesociety.de.am and www.rotekapelle.de.vu

Well big thanks to Felix of 'Siempre-Contra Records' for writing the article , nice one and much appreciated mate !! All the best with the label and the Esperanza !! Keep up the great work !!

Sound Of The Suburbs

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/THEZEROPOINT

The Zero Point - "Hooligans With Cheap Guitars" CD (GTA 059)

Denmarks original Punkster's with a collection of their early tunes .. 36 tracks ! yep 36 of old school original Danish Punk Rock !! This see's the bands musical progression between '79 and '86 and you can hear as the band gets better and better .. real stirring stuff and Punk as fuck music .. can't wait for their new release !! Definately one to add to the collection people.

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/HAVINALAUGHRECORDS

Klasse Kriminale/The Gonads - "Oi! The Resurrection" 7" EP

Two of the worlds top Oi! bands on the same single .. and what a great fuckin listen it is !! Marco and KK supply you with 2 top quality Streetpunk tunes and Gal and The Gonads do exactly the same .. These 2 bands just seem to get better and better with age and time and this 7" is definately one that should be added to your collections !!!

WWW.CHERRYREDRECORDS.COM

Demented Are Go - "Kicked Out Of Hell" CD (CDM PSYCHO 62)

A re-release of Demented's great and apparently controversial album "Kicked Out Of Hell" , I missed it first time round and to be honest can't see what all the hoo haa was about as it's a great fuckin' listen !! But you can find out why it was by reading Simon Nott's sleeve notes which make for good reading , essential listening !!

STREET DOGS

Well Alec and Laura of 'The Last Gang In Town' kindly asked me if I wanted to print an interview they done with Mike McColgan of Boston's Street Dog's – does a bear shit in the woods ?!!! – course I would !!! So needing no introduction here we go , the interview took place at the Islington Academy ...

Street Dogs are a Boston band , how much has the Boston scene been an influence and what Boston bands in particular ?

Bands from the Boston scene , Mighty Mighty Bosstones , Blood For Blood , Jerrys Kids , The Bruisers would be in there and even Slapshot (someone shouts SLAPSHOT !! through the open door) all those bands have been an influence on the Street Dogs.

And British music ?

Immensely ! The first time I heard bands like Sham 69 , Cock Sparrer and The Cockney Rejects I was just blown away by their energy , their rawness and passion. Then there's the Pistols and of course The Clash , the sonic delivery , the vocal , they had so much to say !

The Billy Bragg cover on "Fading American Dream (Power In A Union)" , are you big fans ?

Absolutely ! Billy Bragg has been a massive influence on the Street Dogs , he's always been one of the more 'democratic' artists. He advocates for the 'small man' and the trade union worker and for racial equality. He's a great artist and his points of view are dynamite , he walks his talk and that's very important.

Do you know if he's heard the track ?

No I don't know , I know we asked permission but I don't know if he's heard it. It would be great to know what he thought of it and you're the second person to ask me that.

There's a lot of ideology in the lyrics on "Fad" but it fits very comfortably with the music and never sounds too 'preachy' ?

Preaching is the last thing we would want to do , we're not politicians or zealots , we didn't even set out to make a political sounding record. We wrote songs using our perceptions , our feelings and views on what's going on in the world today , the war , the death of the labour movement , the rise of fear in politics , it's a by product of what's going on inside each band member. The general shame , mistrust and disgust with the current administration.

A lot of people here have similar problems with American foreign policy ?

It's horrible , you can see with Tony Blair's resignation , the indignation of the British people over the war in Iraq. Even in the US it's been shocking just how much of a lackey to George Bush he has been. I've never seen that kind of behaviour from a British prime minister before , never ! There's a lot of palpable anger in the world , not just here and in the US but around the world. I think America desperately needs a new progressive leadership.

Being on the road a lot , do you find time to write songs ?

Absolutely , whether it's lyrics or melodies , the process is continuous for all of us , we are always looking for new ideas , new territory to explore with the songs on the road or at home. But over here for me , when I come over here I get a lot of inspiration , song ideas and lyrics. When we were over in 2005 supporting the "Back To The World" record I came up with a lot of ideas for "Fading American Dream". This country gives me so many song ideas.

We missed you on that tour but we saw you with Flogging Molly and The Briggs ?

That was a great little tour , that was a superb line up ! We really enjoyed that tour a lot.

I remember you playing a kind of tribute to Joe Strummer ?

Yeah for the last call we were sometimes playing "Coma Girl" , I think it's a great song , I thought "Streetcore" was just an amazing , amazing record , by far the superior of the 3 Joe did with Mescaleros ! It doesn't get more apparent than this (rolls up sleeve to reveal tattoo) , that's how I feel about the record !

Is it hard being away from home , family and friends when you're touring ?

Yeah , of course . it's a common question but a pertinent one , absolutely , it's hard , but it affects each member of the band at different times during the tour. Guys get moody , guys get down. But an important thing with the Street Dogs it's the band that everybody expected to fold and not persevere , an ex member thing , that this was a 'vanity project' but through relentless touring and achieving so much in a small amount of time I think we have proved our worth but it's difficult being away from home.

Yourself , and the rest of the band have all been in other notable bands , but you've managed to forge your own path ?

There was a lot of anticipation in the early stages of the group , a lot of expectation. But we had no illusions , we knew we'd have to fight past the 'vanity project' ex member thing or the idea that we were just latching onto a 'hot wagon'. But that's never bothered us. We are what we are and we know what we're capable of. We were wise to forge our own path , there was always going to be comparisons. But I guess that there have been times that it's been helpful to have a

notable pedigree. I won't deny that. We have made 3 records that we can be proud of and we're about to start working on our fourth.

Did you enjoy 'Wasted' when you played there the other year ?

That was a great show , we played in black Dickies jumpsuits , were you there ?

Yeah , Market Arena !

We'd love to go back sometime , had a great time.

It's in Blackpool now , Cock Sparrer played last year

The best of the best , did you know they are recording again ? Lar's Frederiksen's producing the record.

If you could see any band that you just never got to see , who would that be ?

Deadboys , I would have to say the Dead Boys , they just seem to exude Punk Rock attitude and ethos , they did so much in a short amount of time. And maybe The New York Dolls , I never got to see the original Ramones , sorry that's 3 bands !

How's Tobe's drinking problem ?

One day he's sober , next day he's not , he's on the white knuckle ride ! (Tobe shouts 'Yeah fuck off' through the open door)

The song seems almost light hearted , I wouldn't have asked ..

No , Ted Hutt the producer wanted the song to have that feel , even though it's kind of a serious subject. But he didn't want the lyrics to 'hokey'. Kudos to Tobe for allowing that song on the record. None of us take ourselves too seriously , if we did we'd be in a rubber room by now ! We don't mind shedding light on our camp and our own operation.

Is there much difference between an American and a European crowd ?

There really is , Europe is much more discerning , in Europe and here in the UK it's like , come on show me something , show me something genuine ! That does exist in the US but it's much more prevalent here , it's good. We want to get into a cycle , and come over every other year , we should be playing at Reading and Leeds. Getting through life is hard , however you spend your dollar , your quid or your euro , if you choose to spend it coming to see the Street Dogs then we are really grateful for that. Any band that doesn't give it their all for the crowd , shame on them. We won't ever forget that they're the people that pay our wages , that's why we always thank the crowd for coming. When you work hard for your money , where to spend it is an important decision , we take it very seriously.

What would you say was your best ever show ?

I would have to say home coming , playing Boston on the 'Back Of The World' tour. It's hard to describe it really , we were tired and weary and we just kinda got taken over by the crowd and their reaction , and their energy. It was an amazing experience.

Thankyou for the interview , we're looking forward to the gig !

No problem , hope you enjoy the show.

Well big cheers to Alec and Laura for doing the interview and for thinking of us at 'Oi! Warning' .. cheers peeps , it's much appreciated !! And it goes without saying thanks to Mike McColgan of the Street Dogs for taking the time to answer the questions. And good luck to Alec and Laura , keep on organising them great gigs !!

Even more sounds of the suburbs

CHERRY RED RECORDS - WWW.CHERRYREDRECORDS.CO.UK

Andi Sex Gang - "Blind !" CD (CDM RED 326)

Well to be honest I didn't think I was gonna like this disc , and I was right !! Altho to be fair there was a coupla tracks I didn't mind but the geezer's voice really grated on me and the music didn't really do anything for me either .. for me I think you gotta be a fan of Andi Sex Gang before you invest in this.

Laibach - "Nova Akropola" CD (CD MRED 67)

Well I have no idea what this is to be honest and I have no idea who Laibach are , what they're about or what they're trying to do musically .. but what I do know is it's truly fuckin' awful ! I might be missing something but to me it's just a mish mash of sounds and stuff .. I think this is what you'd call alternative ..
AN ALTERNATIVE TO MUSIC !!!

Red Lorry Yellow Lorry - "The Very Best Of.." CD (CDM RED 167)

First time I'd ever heard Red Lorry Yellow Lorry and I quite liked what I heard to be honest , apparently they were around in the 80's and this is apparent in their music which has an indie/goth feeling to it , overall not a bad listen and worth checking out.

The Photos - "The Photos" CD (CDM RED 338)

First time I'd heard of The Photos and I liked what I heard , a kinda Brit version of Blondie I'd say. Catchy , mid-tempo Punk-ish music with great female voals .. loadsa tracks that are all worth a listen and comes with a neat booklet with a history of the band and pics etc ... not a bad listen at all.

EASTFIELD

Well for those of you who don't know , Eastfield are an Inter-City , real ale guzzling band of eccentric Punk tourists , fare dodging their way to gigs round the country , preaching the Punk gospel from their base in Kettering. Some of you may recognise lead singer / guitarist Jessie from the merchandise stores he used to run at various 'H.I.T.S.' festivals and Bambi who plays for Blyth Power but the band say don't hold that against him. I spoke to them recently about trains , pains and spains ..

When was band Eastfield born and how have the line up's changed ?

Eastfield were formed in early 1996 , playing our first gig in April of that year. There have been many different line up's over time , sometimes as a result of drastic , wholesale changes. There probably have been about 6 distinct phases of Eastfield. Despite this , the sound and style has remained constant presumably because as the songwriter , I'm the only one who's been in the band throughout - in a way it has become a life sentence ! Bambi was there in the beginning but had a sabbatical for 4 years before coming back. Our family tree would be interesting , I'd draw it if I could find a big enough bit of paper. For the record we are currently Jessi - Guitar & Singing , Bambi - Bass & Singing , Trina - More Singing and Oddo - Drums.

How would you describe Eastfield's sound now ?

Haha , Eastfield's sound is the same as it's always been - 3 chord up tempo , tuneful Punk Rock with a large dose of humour and socio-political comment.

Apart from maybe Blyth Power I've never known a band so heavily into trains , is it just 'cos they are your main mode of transport or is it something more sinister perhaps ?

Punk Rock and trains went fairly hand in hand during the late seventies. Many people grew up with both , if you have a real passion it is always there. Surprisingly a lot of people that come to our gigs we're/are into trains but there are countless others still to come out of the closet. Even Oddo has shown us his old trainspotting books. There is no question that trains look , sound and smell better than any band ever could. I used to think of nothing better than travelling behind hard locomotives , breaking into railway yards and depots and photographing freight trains. This is why the band is named after a locomotive depot. Sadly all the decent traction , rolling stock and services have changed dramatically in recent years meaning that the excitement and thrill is no longer there to that extent. However , it is still worth carrying a camera around in case there are any locomotives about when Eastfield are touring.

Have you all been in other bands ?

Oddo currently drums in his band Rotten Agenda from Northampton. Trina and Bambi sing and play bass respectively in The Charlies. I have played guitar for Blyth Power , Raggy Anne and The Bus Station Loonies while concurrently being in Eastfield but although this has been fun , it makes sense to concentrate only on Eastfield. Before that I was in some obscure bands that probably no-one has ever heard of. Bambi has also been in Blyth Power , The Whisky Priests , The Soapdodgers and The X-iles.

Did you set out to achieve anything in particular with Eastfield , any philosophy or did you just want to have a good time being in a Punk band ?

The preferential treatment and disproportionate interest given to people just because they play in a Pop group has always been a source of bewilderment. Eastfield formed in opposition to this , to counteract Pop star attitudes , egos and snobbiness. We strive to be nice , communicate and have a bit of fun whilst trying to say something worthwhile. Call us hippies if you like. Keeping integrity is quintessential for survival. The fact that we can do it our way and it works is a reason to carry on in itself. If we were aspiring to be 'Rock stars' or chasing that elusive 'record deal' then we would have got disheartened and split up years ago , but signing to a record label has always been irrelevant to what Eastfield do. Eastfield has always been more about lifestyle choice than just a band and the ethics of DIY are firmly ingrained in this. Eastfield don't need a record company to tell us what to do or how the band should be run. We make our own decisions and choices - if they work - great , if not - then we learn from our mistakes. Eastfield produce good quality stuff at sensible and affordable prices and it sells without ripping people off. Our CD's are properly pressed but we liaise directly with the production companies. We print our own t-shirts which means extra work but it keeps the costs down. We make a small profit on everything but this is ploughed back into the collective pot to help fund the day to day running of Eastfield whether it's recording , releasing , mending broken equipment or buying petrol to play benefit gigs. Everything is covered without anyone needing to dip into their own pockets but no one makes a living from Eastfield either. If we were doing it simply to line our own pockets or to be famous then I for one wouldn't bother.

Do you (Jessi) still do the merchandise thing at festivals ?

No , I've had enough of working long days for little financial reward. I only did it to help out a mate and to shift lots of our stuff - we are all prostitutes after all. Basically , it was good to get in free to 'Wasted' and to sit behind a stall away from all the chaos and reforming bands that I had no desire to see anyway. If mates wanted to come and chat they knew where to find me. While this was going on I managed to sell loads of Eastfield stuff and clear out the dregs of the distro , the last year we shifted enough to pay for the recording and pressing of our last album , so that's a result. We knocked it all out at cheap and affordable prices unlike all the overpriced 'official' stuff on sale from all the other bands playing there to prove that music shouldn't be one big commercial rip-off opportunity. We must have proved our point as the organisers got complaints from some of the other bands about how cheap our stuff was ! Fuck them !

You've set up regular nights at 'Sawyers' in Kettering , how's it coming along and who has impressed you playing there ?
That's something Trina does .. over to her .. Sort of discovered 'Sawyers' by accident and what a cracking venue ! Great atmosphere and real ale if you like the odd tippie (of course they stock Eastfield IPA). Too many good bands to mention that have impressed us - never have a shit night at 'Sawyers' and it's a huge thank you to Rich and Lianne for trusting

me to book bands for their venue. Been busy concentrating on the ol' Punk Rock scene recently with the odd bit of Ska thrown in for good measure and all going marvellously !

I know the band especially Jessie likes to give fare dodging tips out at gigs , any good ones you'd like to share with us ? A more comprehensive account can be found in my article in 'Ripping Thrash' 23/split with 'Gadgie' 'zine. Here is an overview .. The old trick of playing cat and mouse with the guard and hiding in the toilets is obvious , but can still work if you have your wits about you. When they have passed into the end carriage and have their back to you , simply walk to another part of the train that they have already checked and sit down inconspicuously with your nose in a book or something. Guards that do one thorough ticket check from major stations will often after this only ask for "tickets from ..station name". The best policy here is to simply ignore them and let them walk past. They don't know who has got on or off the train , they're relying on people's honesty and are often in a rush to do the whole train. Guards don't want confrontation , they want an easy life. Being discrete is usually the best tactic but in a reverse bit of psychology , standing out can sometimes actually be an advantage , especially if you want to get away with buying a ticket for only a short part of your journey eg.. the guard always checks in the 45 minutes from Birmingham New Street to Cheltenham Spa , so just buy a ticket to there and eff it the rest of the journey to Plymouth. If you stand out by having a silly hair style etc .. you will be most likely remembered as actually having a ticket rather than which stations it covers and therefore will not be checked for the rest of the journey. Feigning sleep is always a good tactic when you have passed the station that your ticket is valid to. If you are woken , pretend to be startled and stressed that you've missed your station. You'll merely get kicked off the train at the next station with advice to get the next train back , but in reality you're that extra bit closer to your destination. Also very busy trains will often stop the guard from being able to carry out a ticket check and on trains that are severely delayed the guard may tactfully decide not to do so. The return portions of saver tickets are valid for a month and with a bit of care can be used again and again. Scour the floors of stations etc .. for unmarked or partially marked return portions. With privatisation there are now so many different companies that most guards will not know where and when on the journey a scribble or punched hole was made. If you have an unused saver return ticket never get it stamped so it can be re-used. The new standardised rail tickets are ace - they have shiny surfaces. Many guards stamps can be totally wiped off with a dry finger immediatley after being done - marvellous !

You have your own real ale on the go , tell us about that , sell it to me , wax lyrical like the wine boffins on the telly ?

This was something done by 'Pot Belly Brewery' of Kettering. Nice people , the brewer Tony likes the band and brewed it on our honour. I guess there is the cottage industry connection between the small brewery existing outside the big drinks corporations and the DIY Punk band not wanting to operate under the umbrella of all the music business bullshit. We both do things our way and make our own decisions and output. Although I fully support decent people and their small businesses , this is a difficult issue as Eastfield IPA is brewed using isinglass finings in the process and therefore is not vegetarian so I can't actually drink it.

Who writes the songs and what makes good subject matter ?

I have always written all the songs , I guess Eastfield has existed as a vehicle for these. I'm not an egomaniac but if someone wants to write songs they can form their own band to do so which is what I did. Subject matter is drawn from first hand experiences , anecdotes , injustices , a total disrespect of absurd celebrity culture , references from disposable popular culture and a heavy smattering of railway influences.

You travel to most gigs by train , I think that's a great way to work it , how does it work out logistically ?

A few years ago no-one in the band had their own transport so we used to tour by public transport i.e. train. With working out a sensible schedule and re-using return portions and fare dodging as much as possible it used to work out more cost effective with 3 people in the band especially when there are cheap rail / ferry tickets to Ireland etc .. Obviously , it's not possible to cart round too much equipment but it is possible to have a guitar in one hand , an amp head in the other ditto for the drummer with their drum breakables plus merchandise in all our rucksacks. In all the time we did this we never missed a gig or turned up late due to missing trains etc .. I personally liked this aspect of touring but some others couldn't hack it , which is one of the reasons we've been through a load of drummers. However , nowadays , Eastfield collectively travel by car , but as the rest of the band live in different parts of the country I still often get my train fix to meet up with them.

On the same subject I bet there's been plenty of locomotive lunacy whilst you've been out gigging by train , there must have been some crazy moments ?

The whole thing was one big adventure and party and we got to meet lots of weird and wonderful people along the way. For a start , we had an unspoken 'competition' to see who could bunk the most fares which added to the fun. Although as mentioned before everything went surprisingly smoothly we did have a bass player who had a knack for losing everything on trains , their lost property office must have done very well out of his phones and the like. He even lost his bass guitar once. Oh and then we managed to lose a drummer the morning after a gig in Hereford , he missed the train so we had to rope in people for the next days gig.

You played in Spain how was that ?

We should correct that and state that we played in the Basque country rather than Spain or our Basque comrades will lynch us ! The hardest part was conquering my fear of flying. Once on the ground it was great , Pabellon 314 who we were touring with were top hosts , taking us straight from the airport to one of their friend's Punk Rock bar which set the tone for the next few days and then on to the first gig. Most of the gigs over there are in squats where we were typically fed and watered. A great atmosphere was experienced throughout. The first thing that strikes you is the abundance of political graffiti and stickers on every available wall space .. whether it's from the Basque Nationalists or the Anarchists. The squats are more like social centres , although we stayed in them no-one actually lives in them full time , a policy introduced so individuals can't take over and create a hierarchy with all it's inherent problems and conflicts. That way they really are spaces run by the people for the people. Sadly there appears to be a lot of building and redevelopment in the suburbs of Bilbao so it remains to be seen if the squats will remain. There are no squats as such in Spain itself. From a

band viewpoint the gigs went down well and it was touching that we played unannounced at the first gig and a group of people enjoyed it and came to all our subsequent squat gigs. We forged a strong friendship with Pabellon 314 and have since returned the favour by organising a tour for them over here. They are currently looking for someone to release their 7" single over here. Anyone interested can get in touch with them via www.pabellon314.net

What do you all get up to when you're not doing Eastfield, you know other interests and stuff?

Other stuff besides Eastfield? Is there anything else? It's all too ingrained and intertwined with my life to separate anything out. I do like trains .. I need to get out and photograph them more.

Who/where are your main influences?

It would be fair to say that Eastfield haven't been directly influenced by anyone musically. I listen to all sorts of stuff, if something grabs me, I don't want to try and copy it as it would end up merely as a sad imitation. I pick up my acoustic guitar and see what comes out. Everything you do and experience will shape and influence your life to some extent but I feel that other people's music has had no more influence than say 'Action' comic and trains.

How do you see the Punk scene in the UK at this moment in time generally?

There is a great deal of energy and general goodwill as a result of there being a lot of wonderful, sound folk out there. Whether it's bands, punters, DIY promoters, 'zine writers or people who run small labels and distros. We have made a lot of good friends, comrades and colleagues as a result. This thrives on mutual aid, respect and co-operation, which is essential for a 'scene' to have any credibility. Eastfield and many others would not survive without it. Different viewpoints can co-exist within all this, as long as people are genuine and decent then it will work. Sadly there are also others that do things for personal fame, wealth or whatever. The underground is often used as a step towards imaginary 'bigger and better things'. We have no time for these people, may the steps come crashing down from under their feet. We know who the good guys and girls are and choose to only work with them.

Which is your favourite Eastfield release and why?

It's hard to choose a favourite as they all sound the same! I'm fond of the first and also the most recent. At the moment the "Roverbrain" album gets the nod as a lot of those songs have just been re-introduced to the live set. However, there's a decent get out clause as by the time this interview is printed the "Urban Rail Punk" double CD will be out and that will no doubt be the all time favourite as it's a collection of every Eastfield song recorded and released over the years. The first 2 albums have completely sold out, there was an idea to release those on a single disc but why not go the whole hog and release everything in one package as there aren't that many copies of the other albums left either.

Where can people buy Eastfield merchandise?

Eastfield stuff and a small distro is always available at our gigs. If there isn't room to set up a stall, feel free to come and hassle us. Everything is cheap as chips. Eastfield releases and t-shirts are also available through

www.eastfieldrailpunk.co.uk or by writing to Eastfield, c/o The Basement, 78a Penny Street, Lancaster, LA1 1XN, UK.

Any queries can also be addressed to jessieeastfield@hotmail.com for a friendly and personal service.

And finally what's your favourite word?

It was 'crap' but if that's deemed too negative then go for 'patchanka'.

Well cheers to Jessi for answering the questions and Trina for aiding and abetting now and then .. and a big cheers to Tez of The DN Allstars for doing the interview and letting me print it, thanks buddy - much appreciated. Hope all goes well for the future and I shall see that I shall have to invest in a copy of the new double CD !!!

MORE SOUND OF THE SUBURBS

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/OFFBEATHEROES

Offbeat Heroes - "Liberation Theory" CD

First time I'd heard Offbeat Heroes and I liked what I heard, they supply you with great Reggae/Ska infused with a bit of Punk here and there, as well as making you want to dance til' you drop the music also carries a message and a meaning. Overall a really good listen, I liked all the tracks altho' I gotta say "Negativity" deserves a special mention along with "Politkovskaya" .. Riot Ska-Core !!! Definately worth checking out people.

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/NARAYANRECORDS

Alternate Action - "Tough Times" 10" LP

Great release from France's 'Narayan Records', everytime I have heard Alternate Action I'm impressed and am reminded of good ol down to earth no frills Oi! music that's kinda reminiscent of the 80's bands and "Tough Times" just goes to re-inforce that theory. Six tracks of Canadian Oi! music that grabs you by the short 'n' curlies and sucks you in with the powerful sound and angry vocals and doesn't let you go until the final track. No favourite tracks as they're a great listen. This is definately one for the collection folks it's that simple!

WWW.CHERRYREDRECORDS.CO.UK

Guana Batz - "Held Down To Vinyl At Last" CD (CDM PSYCHO 63)

Now you can't mention Psychobilly bands without including the Guana Batz in the list. They've been around for summat like 25 years now and are still goin' strong .. "Held Down to Vinyl" was their debut album and this re-issue also includes 3 bonus tracks from an early hard to get single so you're getting a whole host of pure foot stompin Psychobilly tracks on this little gem. There's some good sleeve reading written by Brako to boot. Great listen and one for the collection.

Demented Are Go - "In Sickness & In Health" CD (CDM PSYCHO 61)

And another band who I'd include in any list of Psychobilly greats are Demented Are Go, this is their superb debut album plus 2 bonus tracks namely "One Sharp Knife" and "Rubber Rock" which were the first tracks that the band recorded. This is a great fuckin' listen whether you're a fan of Psychobilly or if you've never heard it before .. good sounds with interesting sleeve notes written by Simon Nott of 'Big Cheese' magazine.

LATE LATE SOUND OF THE SUBURBS ...

WWW.PEOPLELIKEYOU.COM

Mad Sin – “20 Years In Sin Sin” DCD (Double CD-Prison-136-2)

Well it's hard to believe that it's been 20 years since Mad Sin first appeared on the scene and started spreading their sickness and those guys at 'People Like You' have decided to celebrate the fact with this steaming double disc package .. and what a fuckin' listen it is !! 20 years on and Mad Sin are still as frantic , fucked up and sick as ever and show no signs of slowing down .. thank fuck !! One disc is a studio affair and the other is a live disc and both are well worth listening to and just go to show that Mad Sin are definatley one of the best bands around .. long may the sickness continue .. here's to another 20 years !!!

Mad Marge & The Stonecutters – “Liberated” CD (CD-Prison-148-2)

A new name on me this lot but one I would like to hear more of .. seems to me that 'People Like You' are adept at getting hold of great bands with a Psychobilly/Rock edge to them and Mad Marge & The Stonecutters definatley fall under that category .. 11 tracks of female fronted Psycho infused Rocky type music that certainly gets the ol' feet tappin' , as well as the rest of the body ! No stand out tracks as for me they were all a good listen to be honest , definatley worth a listen.

The Meteors – “Hymns For The Hellbound” CD (CD-Prison-134-2)

Well this is the latest release from the kings of Psychobilly .. and what a fuckin' listen it is too ! This has gotta be the jewel in the crown of Meteor albums for me , From start to finish “Hymns For The Hellbound” shows why Paul Fenech and co. are the kings of Psychobilly .. every track is pure Psychobilly with that hard edge .. this is a band that have just got better and better over the years and this gem has surpassed all that's been done before it , great listen !

True Grit – “Shall We Dine ?” CD (CD-Prison-135-2)

New name on me this lot and I was impressed with what I heard I have to be honest .. Punk anthems with a hint of Psychobilly , thanks to the double bass .. that really grab yer attention and holds it until the final track. All 14 tracks are definatley a good listen altho' “I Came Out The Womb An Angry Cunt” has to be a classic in the making ..all in all “Shall We Dine ?” is a great listen and True Grit sound like a great band with a lot of potential , I look forward to hearing more of this lot in the future.

Born To Lose – “Old Scars” CD (CD-Prison-140-2)

Great stuff from Born To Lose .. “Old Scars” is a scathing , all out Punk 'n' Roll assault on your eardrums that just makes you wanna pogo round the room and sing along to every track .. catchy , anthemic and full of energy this disc is definatley one for the collection people .. and that's all I have to say on the matter ! Gotta grab a hold of .. and play loud !!

The Deep Eynde – “Bad Blood” CD (CD-Prison-139-2)

First time I'd heard of this lot , and they ain't too bad. The music comes across as powerful Rock 'n' Roll with a Horror type Punk edge to it that on the whole is catchy as fuck .. and kinda reminds me of The Misfits in some places. It's well played melodic music that goes well with the great , haunting type vocals of Fate Fatal. The Deep Eynde are definatley a band I'm gonna keep me ears open for and this disc is definatley worth getting hold of , no favourite tracks as I liked every single one of 'em , and adding to the collection.

Chip Hanna & The Berlin Three – “S/T” CD (CD-Prison-138-2)

Well this is different .. kinda Country / Folksy type music , you know the deep South type stuff , this is something that I wouldn't normally listen to or buy but after giving it a couple of listens I have to say that I really did like listening to it. The music itself is catchy and melodic and Chips voice has an almost hypnotic feel about it .. certainly gets the ol' feet tappin' ! Like I said altho' it ain't my type of music generally I have to say this is a bloody good listen and well worth kopping hold off.

WWW.OICAPTAINOI.COM

The Last Resort – “A Way Of Life – Skinhead Anthems” CD (AHOY DPX 1)

Digi-pak offering of the classic resort album that should really need no explaining or introduction !! This is just one of them albums that EVERY Skinhead should have in their collection. This disc see's the whole album plus 12 bonus tracks including classics like “Held Hostage” , “Johnny Barden” , “Working Class Kids” ... comes with a neat booklet that has all the lyrics in .. essential listening !!

The Dickies – “Dawn Of The Dickies” CD (AHOY DPX 150)

Well the captain gives The Dickies second album the digi-pak treatment and for me , who'd never really heard 'em before , it's a god send .. really catchy Punk tunes that have a tongue in cheek , poppy feel about 'em but that distinctive Punk Rock edge . I can see why The Dickies were/are a popular band with class tunes like “Gigantor” , “Where Did His Eye Go ?” etc .. plus a great version of “Nights In White Satin” ... good listening and as always comes with a booklet , this time it has sleeve notes by Mark Brennan as well as the lyrics .. good stuff.

The Dickies – “Idjit Savant” / “Dogs From The Hare That Bit Us” CD (AHOY CD 299)

More from The Dickies .. this time with 2 albums on one disc plus 3 bonus tracks .. as before the music is a great listen and the sleeve notes on the booklet this time comes from Andy Carnie as well as having all the lyrics to the songs as well. Good stuff and well worth kopping off folks !

The Lurkers – “Fulham Fallout” CD (AHOY DPX 73)

Digi-pak release of The Lurkers first album “Fulham Fallout” , originally brought out back in '78 .. some seriously fuckin good original Punk tunes on this album specially “Ain't Got A Clue” , “Shadow” , “Time Of Year” and “It's Quiet Here” .. plus theres 12 bonus tracks to boot ! The pullout booklet has interesting sleeve notes written by Mr.Brennan as well as all the lyrics and some pics .. all in all a quality release and one worth getting hold.

WWW.INSURGENCE.NET

The Press – “The Complete Press 1984-1994” CD (IR 024)

Quality release from the 'Insurgence' crew of America's first Oi! band The Press , this 15 track disc epitomises what Oi! is all about and added to that you know the band are a real working class outfit with sussed politics who took a stance and stood by what they said and the music ain't half bad either !! Good quality sounds that seem to draw a lot from the original UK Oi!

bands this digi-pak also comes with a copy of an old flyer with all the lyrics on the back and words about the band from Garry Bushell – all in all a fantastic release that has remastered rarities as well as unreleased gems .. a gotta get as far as I'm concerned , this should be on everyones 'to listen to' list !

The Fallout – “Dismantlement” CD (IR 023)

And another gem of a release from 'Insurgence', this time from Canada's The Fallout .. who provide you with upbeat , Punk as fuck politically charged music. The Fallout's sound reminds me a lot of early bands such as The Clash and Stiff Little Fingers but without copying 'em as they do have their own distinctive sound .. and it's catchy , rebel rousing stuff !! They're socially aware and the lyric's go straight to the point of the matter .. this is a great listen and I would advise one and all to check it out .. pronto !!

WWW.KOIRECORDS.COM

S.S.S.P. – “For Life” CD/LP (Koi Records 012)

Well ever since I heard their 4 track 7” EP I have been waiting for this to come out .. and I can honestly say that the wait has been worth it !! Mike and Vinnie have come up with a corkin' fuckin album in “For Life”, seems to me a lot of thought and effort went into this and it shows. And Mark of 'Koi' has done a great job in the packaging department , on both the CD and the LP. “For Life” provides you with real NYHC with an Oi! feel about it , the music's passionate , angry and intense and every track is well worth listening to .. but then from 2 guys who've been involved in the NYHC scene for years what else would you expect ?! ..This is a gotta get as far as I'm concerned !! Essential listening !

WWW.CHERRYRED.CO.UK

Hell's Bent On Rockin' : A History Of Psychobilly – Craig Brackenridge

A great book about the Psychobilly genre .. from it's roots to the present day. Plus all about the bands , the people , the style etc ... I found the book really easy to read and really interesting , it's obvious the author knows his stuff and researched well. If you're into Psychobilly I'd say that this little gem is an essential buy as it tell's you everything you wanna know about the scene , the bands and the people ! Great stuff.

Dead Kennedys – “Milking The Sacred Cow” CD (CDMRED340)

Well The DK's are a band that need no introduction from the likes of me ! This is a kinda 'best of..' really with classic tracks like “Nazi Punks”, “California Uber Alles”, “Too Drunk To Fuck” .. as well as one of my favourite tracks of all time “Holiday In Cambodia” .. if you ain't heard 'em before (shame on you !) then this disc would be a great introduction to their music and if you have it's a good way to hear some of their best material , good listening.

Chaos UK – “Total Chaos : Singles Collection” CD (CD PUNK 26)

More or less a 'Best of' from Bristol mayhem merchants Chaos UK. What you're getting for your money is 19 tracks of Hardcore Punk with classic tracks like “Four Minute Warning”, “Victimised”, “Kill Your Baby” etc .. You might have heard 'em all before but by fuck they're worth hearing again !! Bloody good listen and worth getting hold of.

The Varukers – “The Punk Singles 1981-85” CD (CD PUNK 74)

And yet more fast Hardcore Punk from 'Cherry Red', this time it's the turn of Punk stalwarts The Varukers , who unleash 24 tracks into your eardrums ...and amongst the 24 are some real gems including “Die For Your Government”, “Protest & Survive”, “Soldier Boy” .. to name but a handful , great music from a great band , enuff said !

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/LUTECEBORGIA

Lutece Borgia – “Long Live Summer” CD (LR 03)

First time I'd heard Lutece Borgia and I have to say I was mightily impressed .. a 3 piece band that supplies you with quality Streetpunk with an underlying 80's feel to it. All 12 tracks are a good listen and are mostly in English altho 4 are in their native French .. to be honest I liked all the tracks and think you will too .. nice digi pak altho I aint sure about the guy in the speedos on the front haha , comes with a pull out sheet with all the lyrics on as well. All in all a good release and one that is worth a listen.

WWW.LONGSHOTMUSIC.COM

Alternate Action – “We're Not like You” 7” EP (LS741)

Well the lads of Alternate Action and Mike of 'Longshot' have come up with a bloody great EP here .. four tracks of Angry beer fuelled brickwall Oi! tracks that really grab you by the short n curlies and don't let go til the needle slides of the vinyl .. along with the 10” on 'Narayan Records' this is the best I have heard 'em sound and as far as I'm concerned this is a gotta get.

The Skitzos – “Faster! Louder! Better!” 7” EP (LS739)

Debut release from these Canadian youngsters and it ain't half bad , enegetic Punk that really gets the ol' foot tappin' , all 4 tracks are a decent listen altho for me “Watch Out” and “Set It Off” were the best of the four. Like I say not a bad debut and I look forward to hearing more of 'em in the future.

Sub City Dwellers – “When The Beat Starts To Pound” CD (LSCD40)

Well ever since I heard this lot on their debut on 'Steelcapped Records' I looked forward to hearing more of 'em .. so I was chuffed when Mike of 'Longshot' sent this little gem to review ! And for me they have got even better .. their sound is still the same Punk/Ska one they had on their earlier CD but they have progressed a lot and have now incorporated other sounds in to their music as well , such as a bit of Jazz , Blues ... and it comes across fuckin' well , great disc that will have you dancing all the way thru !!

WWW.DURTYMICKRECORDS.COM

Suburban Lockdown – “Laid To Waste” CD (DMR0007-3)

Well this is a stormin' listen ! 14 tracks of angry , melodic , catchy Punk .. this lot are definatley one of the better bands that I've heard and this album is one of the best I've heard this year ! Every track is an anthem , catchy and Punk as fuck and the lyrics are well written and thought out and about real issues .. good stuff ! Comes with a foldout sleeve with all the lyrics in it as well so you can sing along .. which yer will , I guarantee it !

WWW.BOOTTOHEAD.COM

Voice Of The Mysterons – “They Have Pulled Down Deep Heaven On Their Heads” CD (BTH032)

Now as a fan of Captain Scarlett (yeah I know sad innit haha !) .. I had to wonder how this lot got their name but that will have to wait til another day .. added to that the title of the disc I wondered what the hell this lot would sound like ! ... The Dead Kennedys ... they sound like an updated version of the Kennedys and the vocalist has a voice that reminds me of Jello Biafra a lot , altho there are other influences in there I would say the DK's are the one that come across most strongly. Comes with a nice booklet as a sleeve that has lyrics etc in it .. The lyrics are , for me , slightly weird but I really like the music ... overall not a bad listen at all.

The Filthy 42's – “Positively South Jersey” CD (BTH034)

Another new name to me , The Filthy 42's supply you with 16 tracks of Indie-Rockish influenced Punk that is melodic and on the whole a decent listen , it's the kinda of music you hear on the music channels but with a little more bollox and savvy you know .. Kind of early Punk with hints of some of the rawer , newer Indie Rock type bands (one track really reminded me of The Hives). To be honest it's not the sort of music I would go out and buy but on the other hand it's a decent listen so then again I might do now , there's a whole array of influences in their music (another track reminded me a lot of 60's bands like The Kinks) and the Filthy 42's bring 'em together well. Worth checking out.

The Scurvies – “Nightprowler” CD (BTH033)

And yet another good listen from 'Boot To Head' , imagine the early Punk sound crossed with a little Rock 'n' Roll and a dollop of Garage ... end result ? The Scurvies !! This lot , from Alaska by the way – don't think I've ever heard a Punk band from Alaska ?! , anyways .. this lot provide you with quality , melodic oldschool type Punk with a hint of Garage .. and they do it bloody well I can tell you ! If you're into bands like The Ramones , The Stooges etc I think that you'll go a bundle on The Scurvies. 16 tracks of to drawer Punk and a band I wouldn't mind hearing more of...

WWW.KNOCK-OUT.DE

Loikaemie – “Loikaemie” CD (KOCD206)

Well ever since I first heard Loikaemie I have rated 'em highly and their latest offering just goes to prove that they are truly one of the best bands in Europe , nope .. the world ! 12 boneshaking Streetpunk tracks that are all a joy to listen to and deal with such subjects as anti racism/anti nationalism , drinking , subcultures , religion .. and loads more plus an AC/DC cover to boot. This is probably the best I have heard Loikaemie sound , there's a lot more diversity about 'em although they ain't lost the power and anger they've always had , this is definatley an album to get hold of folks believe me !! Comes with a booklet that has all the lyrics in as well so you can sing along to 'em to yer hearts content ! A gotta get.

Stage Bottles – “Mr.Punch” CD (KOCD203)

Another peach of a listen from Mosh and 'Knockout' .. Olaf and the band have come up with the goods in this little gem I can tell you ! Excellent sounds with that unmistakable , ever present sax the Stage Bottles serve up 14 tracks that really blow the cobwebs away and draws you in .. it's easy to see why they appeal to people from all walks of life , their music is catchy and really anthemic and is just so fuckin good .. which definatley helps in getting their message across. For me the Stage Bottles are one of the best bands around and both their music and their message deserve to be heard so invest in this disc now !!!

Evil Conduct – “King Of Kings” CD (KOCD205)

Long awaited new album from Dutch Oi!-ster's Evil Conduct and I have to say it's a great listen and in my opinion their best release yet. Evil Conduct provide you with no frills , no punches pulled , straight forward , solid , unadulterated Oi! Oi! music that reminds me a lot of the 80's Oi! bands .. but it's definatley not dated or jaded , far from it ! “King Of Kings” is 14 tracks of pure Oi! , melodic , catchy and yet powerful at the same time and is defiantley a gotta get for any self respecting Oi! fans collection. A nice booklet provides you with the lyrics so you can sing along with 'em .. and you will ! No stand out tracks as they're all a good listen and like I said “King Of Kings” is a must have !

Whiskey Daredevils – “Old Favourites” CD (KOCD204)

Now this is different ! 14 tracks of older tracks by different bands given a makeover (or should that be playover ?!) by the Whiskey Daredevils .. and it works well on the whole , there's a coupla tracks that don't really work for me but the majority do. You got the likes of Minor Threats “Straight Edge” , “Wasted” by the Circle Jerks , “God Save The Queen” by The Pistols and countless more classics brought up to the modern day and given a Rock 'n' Roll feel about 'em .. not a bad listen.

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/YORKSHIRECREW

Urban Scum – “Yorkshire Drinking Crew” CD

13 tracks of power packed , angry , beer fuelled Oi! Oi! music that really gets the blood running thru the veins .. with common themes being aggro , working class pride and alcohol !!! Ah the 3 main things in life .. closely followed by birds and food haha ! Urban Scum definatley supply you with sing-a-long , anthem type songs that I can imagine is sung by every one of the crowd at their gigs .. this is a good listen folks and you get solid Oi! music that's a joy to listen to and this disc is worth getting hold of.

COMING OUT IN FEBRUARY ON CAPTAIN Oi! RECORDS

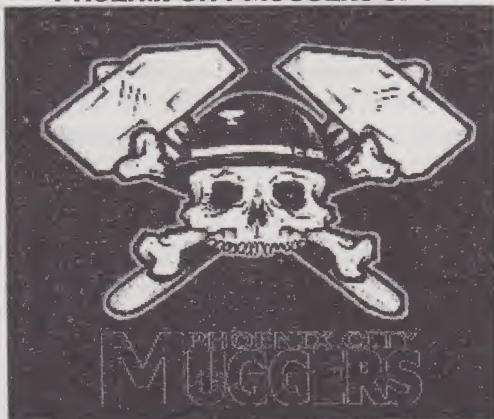
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